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THE PAST YEAR.

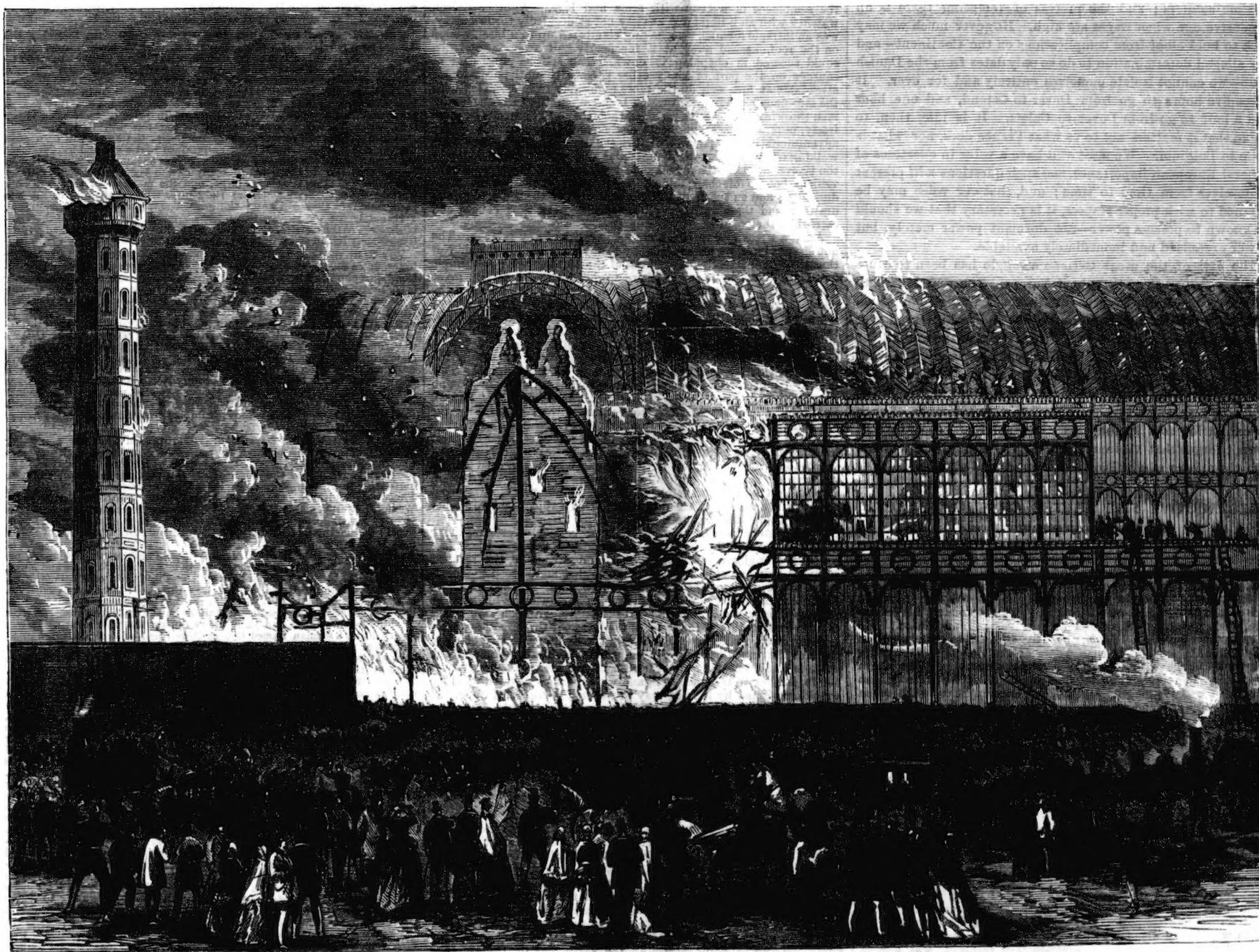
THE year 1866 will be especially associated, in the general history of Europe, with the great war in Germany and the important results by which it has been followed, both in Germany and in Italy. The one event of overwhelming European importance has been the Battle of Sadowa, followed as it was by the virtual exclusion of Austria from all participation in the affairs of Germany and by her absolute expulsion from the soil of Italy. The State which from Brandenburg became Prussia, and which did not receive general recognition by the latter name until about a century ago, is soon, it is said, to receive the larger appellation of "Germany." Italy, on her side, has all but attained that completeness which, a dozen years ago, was looked upon by all who had the least pretensions to the character of serious politicians as a dream impossible to realise. The pieces of the Italian puzzle have all been put together with the exception of one little bit, called Rome, which for the present refuses obstinately to fit into its appointed place.

In the course of the last three years Prussia and Austria have appeared successively in the character of antagonists, allies, and enemies. During the negotiations on behalf of Poland, Austria joined France and England in the representations they felt called upon to make to the Government of Russia; while Prussia at once ranged herself on the Russian side, and even took severe measures against the insurgents in

those districts of Poland which border the Prussian frontier. About a twelvemonth after the first outbreak in Poland, Austria adopted the attitude which Prussia had maintained from the beginning; and about that time, when a coolness between France and England had been caused by the failure of the diplomatic negotiations—or, rather, by the unwillingness of England to pursue them beyond a certain point—Prussia and Austria were brought together by an opportune revival of the Schleswig-Holstein question. If Prussia was the really active Power in attacking Denmark—Austria, being obliged to follow her lead, under pain of losing all influence in Germany—England was the only Power that showed any earnest desire to defend her. Russia and France were bound by treaty, equally with England, to preserve the integrity of the Danish monarchy; but how could it be expected that Russia would oppose Prussia, who, during the Polish insurrection, when all the rest of Europe was menacing her, had boldly taken her part? How, too, could it be expected that France would act seriously in accord with England when the futility of doing so had been shown in the negotiations which Earl Russell had just brought to so inglorious an end? In spite, then, of the efforts made by England single-handed to arrest the invasion of Denmark, Denmark was invaded, and the two provinces claimed by the Germans torn from it. Seized in the name of Germany, and administered conjointly by Prussia and Austria, the conquered

territory was soon made a subject of dispute between the conquerors. Austria, who it was evident could not remain for ever in Holstein, referred, or proposed to refer, the whole question to the Diet; but Prussia would not hear of such a thing; and the end of it was (as far, at least, as regarded the fate of the "duchies") that the Austrian troops who occupied Holstein were summoned one morning to retire, and, in accordance with instructions received from Vienna, allowed themselves to be politely drummed out by the Prussian military bands.

From doubtful allies the Prussians and Austrians became positive enemies; and the Austrians had now no course open to them but to declare war. There was a general expectation in Europe that the magnificent Austrian army—certainly the best dressed, and probably one of the best-drilled armies in the world—would make short work of the Prussians. This, in particular, seemed to be the opinion of Benedek, the Austrian Commander-in-Chief. But the Austrian troops were not nearly so well armed as their enemies, while many of the Italian and Hungarian regiments were disaffected, and, it is said, went over in masses to the Prussians. This would account for the immense—and, indeed, unprecedented—number of "prisoners" made at Sadowa. The Austrians attributed their series of defeats to the Prussian needle-gun; but history will give the credit of the campaign to Count Bismarck and General von Moltke, who planned it—the one



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in a political, the other in a military, sense—and to General von Roon, the Minister of War, under whose care the army had been raised to that high state of efficiency which it displayed in actual conflict.

In Italy the effect of Prussia's Bohemian victories was the liberation of Venetia. Not that Italy did nothing to bring about that result herself. In accordance with the old policy of the Austrian empire, while Poles, Hungarians, Bohemians, and Italians were sent against the Prussians, the German troops were, as a rule, reserved for service in Italy. Thus numbers of Austria's best regiments were prevented by the Italians from swelling Benedek's hosts at the great final battle.

The shock of the brief but decisive Prusso-Austrian campaign was felt in France. First the Emperor suggested (with the previous knowledge and consent of Count Bismarck, it was thought) that a rectification of the Rhine frontier should be made to the advantage of France. The Imperial suggestion having been received by Count Bismarck with a shake of the head, Napoleon III. seems to have resolved forthwith to reorganise the whole French army. For what purpose this most important step, is being taken is one of the things that we shall, perhaps, be able to discuss a year hence, but of which we can say very little at present. That the French army should be armed with rifles at least as good as those used by the Prussians, is no doubt quite necessary. The really remarkable point in the Emperor's new military scheme is the proposed increase in the numbers of the army. We can scarcely believe that the French are afraid of a German invasion. Do they then wish to invade Germany? There is a growing opinion to that effect among the Prussians, based, no doubt, on the fact that the French have made certain demands on Prussia which they have not retracted, and that they are now forming an army with which they might well persuade themselves that they could insist on these demands being granted. The French Government proposes to embody in a reserve "the entire class which has hitherto been liable only to the chance of conscription." In war time the army, including a mobilised national guard of 300,000, would number no less than 1,250,000.

The shock of Sadowa has also been felt in England, and has given rise to a good deal of argument—which we hope may be attended with results—on the subject of our military organisation, so obviously defective. The absence of conscription in England is an advantage which, like all advantages, must be paid for in some shape or other. If men are not to be forced, they must be tempted to become soldiers; and the process of tempting them is an expensive one when wages are high. However much we may seek to hold aloof from complications on the Continent—and our alleged determination to do so only dates from the Danish War—we cannot isolate ourselves entirely and for ever. It takes five hours to go from Dover to Ostend, and one hour and a half to go from Dover to Calais. It is idle, then, to argue that it matters not to us what France does, nor what is done to Belgium. We must still have a voice in questions of general European importance, and such questions will present themselves from time to time; and, that our voice may be listened to with proper respect, it is necessary that we should be known to possess power—not dormant power merely, but power organised and immediately available.

The evil of the great German struggle has been to cause military preparations throughout Europe. The year 1867 is to be the year of the French International Exhibition, which will, no doubt, be the most impressive sight of the kind ever seen. Commercial panics, wars, rumours of wars, and all the ills and annoyances that were brought to us by the year 1866, are, according to some Parisian enthusiasts, to be forgotten when the French Exhibition opens; but, although the Emperor may affect to look upon the mere existence of such an exhibition as a symbol and a guarantee of peace, we still cannot forget that this same year of the Exhibition will see him the master of a million and a quarter of soldiers.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE CONFLAGRATION.

ON Sunday an alarming fire broke out at the Crystal Palace, threatening at one time the destruction of the entire fabric. The fire was discovered in the northern transept, about two o'clock p.m.; and a gentleman residing in the neighbourhood is said to have heard a slight explosion as he passed the northern end of the building about that time. This attracted his attention, and presently afterwards he saw smoke and flame. He immediately gave an alarm, but by that time the men on duty in the Palace had become aware of the fire, and were doing their best to cope with it and to summon assistance. The alarm was flashed by telegraph to the head-quarters of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in Watling-street, City, and Captain Shaw, with seven powerful engines and all the men he could collect, was soon on his way to the scene, other members of the brigade following, until at length nearly one hundred had reached the spot. In the meantime an engine from Croydon and another from Clapham, which were the first to arrive, did good service in controlling the fire, until the superior force, with all the necessary means and appliances, under the direction of Captain Shaw, reached the spot, and was brought into action. Fortunately the wind, which was from the south-west, blew the flames away from the main body of the fabric, and confined them very much to the comparatively limited area in which the fire began. But what, probably, more than anything else, or more than all other fortunate circumstances together, saved the Palace from destruction, was the immense screen, partly of glass and partly of canvas, which separated, and still separates, the tropical compartment from the rest of the nave. Volumes of water were thrown upon the canvas, and in that way the screen was preserved; but, what was of more importance, it served to cut off the current of air which would otherwise have rushed along the nave, and carried with it the flames. As it was, the north-eastern transept was almost wholly destroyed, and a huge breach made in that end of the building. With the transept perished the Queen's apartments and the library attached. The Assyrian, Alhambra, Byzantine, and

Indian Courts were more or less injured by fire or water, or both, and the gallery containing marine architectural models was destroyed, as were also the carpenters' shops, situated at the north-east end of the building and below the flooring. Some of the floors of the water-tower also caught fire, one after another, but the fire there was speedily extinguished, and the tower is said not to be materially injured.

THE RUINS.

There was much curiosity among the holiday-makers who visited the Crystal Palace on Monday to see the ruins; though the crowd was not so large as might have been expected. The scene is a strange as well as a sad one. Little if anything remains uninjured north of the screen. The Alhambra Court is a gaudy wreck, pieces of its Moresque ornamentation lying strewn about like damp fragments of a gigantic Twelfth-cake ornament. The Assyrian Court is quite obliterated; and the two colossal figures, copied from the pair which guard the tomb of Rameses the Great at Abou Simbel, are left by themselves, just recognisable for what they were. On the leg of one of the figures is a most curious Greek inscription, which Mr. Joseph Bonomi had reproduced from the original. It records that the Greek mercenaries in the service of Psammetichus, King of Egypt, were ordered to pursue and chastise some rebel tribe; and that, having followed the insurgents as far as they thought it prudent to go, they halted by those ancient tombs, and on one of the great seated figures recorded the circumstances of their expedition. Crossing the dangerous floor, from which of course the public are rigidly excluded, the privileged visitor makes his way through a scorched and tangled jungle of tropical plants and shrubs, and smells, perhaps for the first time in his life, the roasting mango of the torrid zone. A mass of iron girders and columns lies in a jagged pile, to the north-east of the desolated space; and the few tottering pillars which yet stand threaten to add soon to the heap at their base. One of these perpendicular supports, just outside the ruins of the Byzantine Court, presents a remarkable appearance, about a foot and a half of the iron being broken clean out of the middle, so that all the upper portion is held from above instead of from below. The Monti fountains are gone, as clean as if they had melted away. The statuary is all broken or disfigured, some of it grotesquely enough, as where a Greek girl carries her own head in a basket. The cages of the parakeets and other small birds are mournfully empty and silent. It is said that some of them were set free, and may be yet found and brought back again; but this is very doubtful; and the statement that a number of monkeys were seen that Sunday evening walking about Camberwell must be taken, we fear, rather as a satirical joke than as a consolatory assurance that some of the "missing links" from Sydenham are safe and sound in the vicinity. A melancholy cockatoo sat perched all day on Monday on a girder, surveying the ruins of his recent abode, like an ornithological Marius. One of the birds saved was an eagle, which bit the hand of his kind captor, just as an ungrateful parrot rescued by the Duke of Sutherland gripped his Grace's fingers in anything but a friendly way. Many others which had been liberated flew wildly about in the smoke for a time and then fell stupefied. The baby hippopotamus was found dead, like a big dried sausage; and the poor chimpanzee died with screams of agony. A singular occurrence with respect to this unlucky animal may be briefly mentioned. It was thought by many persons present that he had escaped from his cage; and this impression was considerably strengthened by the sight of an uncouth figure holding on to the skeleton of the roof, and writhing as if in painful efforts to get astride an iron rib. For a time the struggles of this creature, brute or human, were watched with sickening dread by people below; till a gentleman who happened to have a field-glass in his hand, looked through its lenses at the writhing figure, and found it to be a tattered piece of blind split into the semblance of a body with arms and legs. Another object, watched with an interest and anxiety not so decidedly thrown away, was an intrepid fireman, who, having clambered up to a blazing mass on the roof, hacked away at it for nearly half an hour before he could succeed in chopping it down. The self-denying acts of courage on the part of many other persons than the accustomed attendants at fires were all the more admirable from contrast with the larcenous blackguardism which broke upon the scene. Gentlemen throwing aside their overcoats, that they might work the more freely, never saw those garments again; and one scoundrel, boldly adventurous in the practice of his sneaking vocation, was seen walking off with a bundle of umbrellas under his arms. Many of the thieves attacked the refreshment bars, and laid hands upon convenient bottles of champagne. They were repulsed with some difficulty; and on the arrival of the police from town a cordon was drawn round these ruffianly pilferers, who were thus caught and carried off the premises.

Amid a wreck so dire, it is pleasant to speak of any salvage. The autographs have, we are most happy to say, been mainly saved. Not that they were actually dragged out of the burning pile; the simple fact being that they were not there to be dragged out. By great good fortune, Mr. Deputy Reed, to whom the most valuable and the greatest number of these relics belonged, had asked for the return of them for a short time. The short time was their safety. While they were away from their place in the Palace, the fire which would certainly have destroyed them broke out. Another remarkable escape was that of the fine black Derbyshire marble fountain in the Byzantine Court, a copy of a very celebrated German original. This beautiful object, which was so great a favourite with Sir Joseph Paxton, that it has gone by the familiar name of the "Paxton Fountain," stands unscathed, a perfect marvel of soundness in the midst of ruin. A few, but only a few, other instances of salvage might be named; but in mentioning two we have selected the most important. It is pardonable, perhaps, to notice a grim piece of unintended humour in the advertisement which appeared in the columns of several of our daily contemporaries. It was therein announced that a lecture would be delivered almost on the very spot covering the source of the disaster on this subject, "Fire: what causes it; how it is extinguished."

Already steps have been taken by the directors towards repairing the damage caused by the fire. On Tuesday Mr. Edwin Clark, the consulting engineer of the company, and Mr. Rose, the resident engineer, made an official survey of the ruins, and agreed to recommend to the directors the inclosure, forthwith, of a space of about 120 ft. on the northern side of the screen separating what was the Tropical Department from the rest of the nave, with the view to the eventual restoration of that part of the fabric, if the directors should so determine. As the roof and sides of the building for that distance north of the screen have been saved, the inclosure of so much of the space is easily effected; and the rest of the area, extending about 300 ft. further in that direction, and which is now covered with the wreck occasioned by the fire, may be restored in course of time. It is currently reported, upon what appears to be reliable authority, that, in the event of the northern end being rebuilt, the cost will be from £50,000 to £60,000; and that in addition to the expense of reinstating it in other respects, should the directors decide upon restoring the Tropical Department, with the various courts that have been destroyed, as it originally stood. In the mean time the ordinary recreations of the Palace go on as usual.

THE WATER SUPPLY IN THE PALACE.

As much has been said, and truly said, in reference to the languid supply of water from the hydrants in the Palace for some time after the fire broke out, and to the inefficient state of the canvas hose, it may be well to state what precautions were ordinarily taken by the company in the event of fire. With respect to water, they have four different and abundant sources, and that irrespective of the various fountains and lakes on the terraces and in the grounds. At the top of each of the water-towers north and south, there is a tank 42 ft. 6 in. in diameter by 38 ft. deep, and capable of containing about 700 tons of water each. At the north end of the building there is an open reservoir, level with the floor of the building, extending over an acre and a half, and ordinarily containing 5,500,000 gallons of water, though capable of containing half as

much more. In the immediate vicinity of this, and of the water-tower at the northern end, there are two raised tanks, 15 ft. deep, and each capable of containing 207,360 gallons. When the fire began there were about 9 ft. of water in the large open reservoir, or 4,350,000 gallons; and next morning, after the fire was completely extinguished, 7 ft. of water remained in it, or about 3,300,000 gallons, although six of the large engines of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade had been draining it for two or three hours continuously, while the fire raged, and more or less during the following night in cooling the ruins. The immense volume of water stored at the top of each of the lofty water-towers is easily available in case of fire, and was available on Sunday last during the conflagration. It is, moreover, capable of being delivered and directed upon a given point at a pressure from 110 lb. to 120 lb. the square inch, and that simply by gravitation. Such was the supply of water ordinarily at command for the uses of the building and in case of fire. But, unfortunately, for some time at least, and that at a most critical period, just after the outbreak of fire, and when all the resources of the company should have been called into requisition with the view of extinguishing it, all that immense volume of water was kept pent up for want of some one familiar with the duty promptly to turn on the mains, and was rendered still further useless by the rotten condition of the hose belonging to the company. The fire broke out about two o'clock, and Mr. Rose, the resident engineer, arrived twenty minutes or half an hour afterwards. Until then the hydrants appear to have been but imperfectly charged, and hence the languid supply of water when it was most wanted—at the first appearance of fire. The first act of Mr. Rose, on his arrival, was to cause all the mains in the building to be turned fully on, including those of the tank at the top of the northern water-tower; but, as the grounds and building are extensive, all this required time, and in the interval the fire made great way. The moment, however, the mains were completely charged, a new and most vexatious effect was produced. The water, which, until then, had required to be coaxed and cajoled, flowed in such force as to burst the canvas hose, and it was not until the Croydon and Clapham engines, with their leathern hose, arrived that any decided effect was produced in arresting the progress of the fire.

THE OLD AND THE NEW YEAR.—On Monday night and Tuesday morning Churchmen and Dissenters were actively engaged in "seeing the old year out and the new year in." Amongst the numerous body of Wesleyan Methodists the last night of the year is called "Watch Night," and their services were very striking. At the City-road chapel, Hinde-street, and elsewhere, the service commenced at eleven o'clock, and consisted of prayers, singing, and brief pulpit addresses. As midnight approached, the whole congregation knelt down, and solemn silence was preserved. At length the clock announced that the old year had come to a close, and as the last stroke of twelve sounded the members of the congregations rose, and, having sung a jubilate hymn, went to their respective homes. In many of the parish and district churches there were also midnight services. At St. Clement Danes the service was conducted by the Rev. R. H. Killick, M.A.; at St. Luke's, Brompton, by the Rev. Harry Jones; at West-street chapel, St. Giles's, by the Rev. R. W. Dibden, M.A. At some Independent and Baptist chapels there were appropriate services, but they were not so general as amongst Churchmen and Wesleyans.

SIR W. MANSFIELD.—On the meeting of Parliament the following questions will be put to the Secretary of State for India:—"Is it true that in 1864 the Bombay Government issued an order, with the concurrence of the Home and Supreme Governments, prohibiting their officers accepting shares in companies where their official positions would give them opportunities of furthering the interests of their own schemes? 2. Was Sir William Mansfield then a member of the Bombay Government, and did he notwithstanding accept five shares in the Port Canning scheme, which, if sold at once, would have given him a clear profit of £5000? 3. Did Sir William Mansfield, after he became a member of the Supreme Government, where questions connected with the Port Canning scheme were sure to come before him, hold, notwithstanding his participation in the prohibitory order, the five shares he had received? 4. Did questions connected with the scheme come before Sir William Mansfield in his official capacity, and has any notice been taken of the anomaly by the India House authorities?"

THE REDUCTION OF WAGES IN SOUTH WALES.—On Saturday the notices for a reduction of wages expired at some of the leading ironworks of South Wales, and in each case the men have expressed their willingness to go on at the reduced rate. This was generally expected, because the men themselves are fully aware that their employers have gone through great and serious difficulties within the last six or nine months. In 1865 ordinary iron rails were selling at £7 per ton at the works, whereas now they can be purchased for £6 per ton, being a falling off in price of more than 14 per cent, which is sufficient proof of the depression that prevails in the trade. Provided orders will come in pretty regularly, the hands will earn good wages; and there are strong hopes entertained that a gradual improvement will take place in the demand at the new year advances, because it is well known that the requirements of many of the home and foreign railway companies and other buyers are large, and the majority of them are only waiting for monetary matters to right themselves a little after the late panic, and then they will enter the market and give out their contracts. Fortunately for the ironmasters, stocks are not heavy at any of the establishments of the district, and hence a slight increase in the demand will be immediately felt in every branch of the trade.

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY AND THE FACTORY ACTS.—The following letter, dated July 5, 1866, is extracted from a "History of Factory Legislation," just published by Mr. Philip Grant, of Manchester, to whom the letter is addressed. It discloses the fact, not generally known, of a seat having been offered to the Earl of Shaftesbury in the present Cabinet:—"Dear Grant,—I have declined office, with a seat in the Cabinet, as I wish to be unfettered and give the residue of my life (having given already some thirty-three years) to the social welfare of the working classes. Lord Derby's Government is very friendly to your cause. You may publish it everywhere, on my authority; but I desired leisure for the work, and freedom, which I could not enjoy when bound to a Cabinet. I want very much to see the operatives, or write to them, on the Factory Acts: it may, perhaps, be my last effort. What think you? The paper you sent me touches on points which I have always avoided, and which I shall ever avoid. But 'accidents and violations of the law are within my jurisdiction.'—Yours truly, SHAFTESBURY."

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BEAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, rewards, amounting to £136 6s., were voted to pay the expenses of the Withersnes, Fleetwood, Whitburn, Ormes Head, Holyhead, Porthleven, Lowestoft, Wexford, and Palling boats for rescuing the crews of the following wrecked vessels during the past month:—Brig George, of Lowestoft, 6 men saved; barque Inga, of Kragero, 13; barque Margaret and Jane, of South Shields, and barque Caroline Elizabeth, of London, 21; smack Cymro, of Amble, 2; ship Himalaya, of London, rendered assistance; Russian barque Salmi, assisted to save vessel and crew of 16 men; lugger William and Mary, of Yarmouth, 1; shore-boat, of Wexford, 9; ship India, of Maitland, N.S., 2; schooner Lion, of Goolie, 5; and brig Chase, 5: total lives saved, 80. Rewards, amounting to £44, were also voted to pay the expenses of the life-boats of the institution at different stations on the coast for various services to shipwrecked vessels and their crews during the past month. It was reported that a seaman named George Cowell had put off alone in a small boat, near the entrance to the Tees, on the 8th ult., to the assistance of the crew of the distressed steam-sloop Wrecker, of Newcastle. In his noble attempt the boat was capsized, and he was unfortunately drowned. The institution voted £10 to his widow, who had no children. Various other rewards were also granted for saving life from different wrecks on our coasts. A contribution of £350 had been received by the institution, on behalf of the "Solicitors and Proctors' Life-boat fund, through F. Ovary, Esq., and W. M. Wilkinson, Esq. The committee decided to station the life-boat at Winchelsea, on the coast of Sussex. The Solicitor-General (Sir J. B. Karslake, Q.C.) had also forwarded to the society a liberal donation of £10. A contribution amounting to £150 6s. 9d. had been received by the institution, through Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, and the Rev. Teignmouth Shore, towards the cost of a life-boat to be called "The Working Man." Legacies had recently been bequeathed to the society by the late Miss Laing, of Abergele, £50; and the late Mrs. Mary Clarke, of King's Lynn, £30. New life-boats had been sent during the past month to Lyme Regis, Looe, New Brighton, Tyrella, and Port Legan. The railway and steam-packet companies had, as usual, kindly given the boats free conveyance to their destinations. Two life-boats were also ready to be forwarded to Bombay; they had been built by Messrs. Forrest, under the superintendence of the institution, for the India Board. Reports were read from the inspector and the assistant inspector of life-boats on their recent visits to different life-boat stations on the coast. Payments amounting to £2400 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. The accounts of the institution for the past year were ordered to be sent to Mr. G. C. Begbie, the public accountant who had been the auditor of the society for the past fifteen years. Captain Walker, H.C.S., of the Board of Trade moved, and Admiral Hardy seconded, a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, cordially thanking Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., and Sir Edward Perrot, Bart.; for their able conduct in the chair at the meetings of the institution during the past year.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

At the usual reception on New-Year's Day at the Tuilleries the Emperor Napoleon, in replying to the congratulations of the diplomatic body, expressed his wishes for the stability of thrones and the prosperity of nations, and said he hoped that we were entering upon a new era of peace and conciliation, and that the Universal Exhibition would contribute towards calming passions and drawing closer the general interests. To the Archbishop of Paris a special and highly complimentary speech was addressed. The prayers of such a man would be heard by Heaven, and "those prayers are for France a blessing, and for me a new source of consolation and hope." Monseigneur Darbois is by no means Ultramontane in his views. It may be, therefore, that the Emperor, in thus specially addressing him, wished to mark his disapproval of the passionate zeal for the temporal power of the Pope which many of the other Church dignitaries of France have displayed.

An official despatch has been received in Paris from Admiral Roze, dated Oct. 22, announcing the capture of Kanghoa, an important town in the Corea, by the French forces on Oct. 16. On the 19th of the same month the Admiral received a letter from the King of Corea, in reply to which he stated the satisfaction demanded by the French Government. The Admiral was still at Kanghoa on Oct. 22, awaiting the arrival of interpreters from Shanghai.

The *Moniteur du Soir* declares that the evacuation of Mexico by the French forces will be complete by March 1, whatever course may be pursued by the Emperor Maximilian.

SPAIN.

Serious events seem to be occurring, and to be impending, in Spain. Queen Isabella, in the undoubted, but perhaps imprudent, exercise of her prerogative, signed a decree for the dissolution of the Cortes; but before she put her name to it 120 deputies, with the President (M. Rios Rosas) of the Chamber at their head, and accompanied by the Vice-presidents and Secretaries, presented a respectful remonstrance to her Majesty against the measure. The Cabinet—that is, Marshal Narvaez—on the ground that this address was contrary to the Royal prerogative, ordered MM. Rios Rosas, Salaverria, Fernandez de la Hoz, Herrera, and Roberto to be arrested and transported to Rorito Rico or the Canary Islands. To these gentlemen 164 others, including Marshal Serrano, it is said, have been added. The decree of dissolution was forthwith promulgated, and a new Parliament is summoned for March 31. "Madrid," the despatch adds, and we may well believe it, "is greatly agitated." In this conduct Narvaez is perfectly consistent with himself. There is, however, some slight difference to be observed. One-and-twenty years ago he had the entire staff of a then well-known Madrid newspaper arrested during the night and sent, next morning, to Cadiz to be put on board ship and transported to the Philippines; whereas those now arrested are only dispatched to Porto Rico or the Canaries. The cause of the present arrest was presenting an address to the Queen on the dissolution. The cause of the arrest twenty-one years ago was much more heinous. The writer of a *feuilleton* in the paper referred to alluded playfully to people who wear other people's hair; and, as Narvaez wore at that time a very handsome wig, he took the allusion as personal and punished it accordingly. The best of the matter is that this occurred just a few weeks after the new Constitution, introduced by Narvaez, was solemnly sworn to, the foremost article of which provided for the liberty of the subject. The parties in question (one of whom is, I believe, now a senator) were not sent to the Philippines, owing to the fact that there was no ship in the port to take them. They were only detained some months in prison, near Cadiz, and at the intercession of powerful persons, at length liberated.

ITALY.

King Victor Emmanuel held a reception on New-Year's Day, and, in reply to the address of a deputation from the Italian Parliament, congratulated Italians on having secured the independence of their country, and with it an improvement in the civil administration and increased public prosperity.

The Italian Government claims an indemnity of 52,000*fr.* for the damage done to the Italian steamer *Il Principe Tomasso*, which was fired upon in Candioti waters by a Turkish man-of-war. It also demands the dismissal of the captain of the Turkish vessel and a salute to the Italian colours from the Ottoman fleet.

The Italian papers publish the following manifesto, signed "The Committee of Action," and copies of which, printed by the Republican clandestine press, covered the walls of Rome on Dec. 16:—

Romans.—The French banner is furled, the French army has quitted Italy. The shield that for seventeen years has protected our ferocious and incapable Government is withdrawn. A few Papal bravos and a rabble rout of foreigners cannot hold in check the people which repulsed the army of Oudinot from their walls on April 30, 1849. All true Liberals feel the necessity of rallying our forces for the purpose of uniting in one supreme unanimous effort. We are on the watch for the opportune moment for insurrection, and preparing the elements of victory. Until that moment arrives be upon your guard against all unknown agitators, and avoid all tumult or disorder, which might be a snare laid for you by your enemies. In the mean time prepare calmly and resolutely for battle; when the hour of deliverance sounds we will call you to arms. Long live free Rome, the capital of Italy!

The Pope has addressed an autograph letter to a committee of Roman nobles who, in the name of the majority of the nobles and citizens of Rome, had placed themselves at the disposal of the Pope to defend the Holy See. His Holiness thanks them for their generous offer, and declares that he will avail himself of it should the occasion arise.

GERMANY.

The draught of the Constitution for the North German Confederation makes the distribution of votes in the *plenum* of the old Frankfurt Diet the basis of the system of voting in the Federal Council, which is to be attached to the North German Parliament. It is proposed to exclude Government functionaries, not from the future Diet of the Confederation (Reichstag), but only from the Parliament which is about to assemble. The distribution of votes in the *plenum* of the old Frankfurt Diet gave to each State in the federation at least one vote, and the larger States more. Thus, Austria had 4; Prussia, 4; Bavaria, 4; Saxony, 4; Hanover, 4; Württemberg, 4; Baden, 3, and so on.

The law for the incorporation of Schleswig-Holstein was signed by the King of Prussia on the 24th ult.

AUSTRIA.

Austria is very busy reorganising her army. The Emperor has approved of the plan prepared by the Minister of War, and now it will have to be submitted to the Reichsrath. The general tendency of the plan is to make the Austrian people liable to serve earlier and longer than they have hitherto done.

In the financial law for 1887 the entire revenue is estimated at 407,237,000 *fl.*, and the entire expenditure at 433,896,000 *fl.* The extraordinary additional taxation is to be maintained at the same amount as last year. A credit of 79,495,000 *fl.* still available from the financial operations of May 5, May 25, and Aug. 28 of the current year is opened to cover the deficit of 26,599,000 *fl.*, as well as the sum of 51,034,000 *fl.*, being the expenditure which remained unprovided for from the last exercise of the Budget.

An extraordinary Reichsrath is convoked for Feb. 25, which will only be occupied with deliberating upon the question of a Constitution.

RUSSIAN POLAND.

Letters from St. Petersburg state that at the beginning of January next the complete fusion of Russian Poland with the rest of the empire will be announced by Imperial proclamation. Poland will be divided into twelve governments, and Count Berg will then be simply Governor-General of the Province of Warsaw. The Polish calendar and weights and measures, as likewise the religious festivities, will thenceforth be made to conform to those of Russia, and Russian will also be the official language of the country.

GREECE.

A new Ministry has been formed in Greece, of which M. Comondourous is the President.

The programme of the new Ministry declares that they intend to pursue a policy of moderation, on the ground that Greece requires the preservation of public order for the development of her resources. The Ministry is not a party to the rising in Crete, and does not wish to see disturbances in Turkey. The occurrence of such disturbances is in no way caused by the Greek Government. Greece, notwithstanding her sympathy with the Candiotas, will respect the principle of neutrality towards Turkey.

CANDIA.

A Russian frigate has arrived at Athens, bringing numerous families from Candia, who succeeded in embarking notwithstanding the Turkish blockade.

The latest news from the island announces that, on account of the winter having set in, no fresh engagement has taken place between the insurgents and the Turkish troops.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York to the 22nd ult. The most important piece of news, if true, is a statement in the *New York Herald* that Sir Frederick Bruce has notified to the Federal Government that it will be held strictly accountable for the enforcement of the neutrality laws. The Canadian frontier is now strictly guarded by British troops against Fenian aggression, and it is said that two British gun-boats have left Quebec to convoy the Cunard steamers.

Mr. Campbell and General Sherman had returned to New Orleans, where they await further instructions. It was reported that they were greatly disappointed as to the popularity of Juarez and American intervention.

The House of Representatives had adopted a resolution promising to support the Executive in the vindication of the Monroe doctrine, especially with regard to Mexico.

The Connecticut Democratic Committee had called a convention in order to take steps against "the revolutionary acts of Congress."

MEXICO.

The forces under Ortega, who had entered Mexico from Texas on Dec. 18, are said to have captured and executed Escobedo.

The Republicans attacked San Luis de Potosi on Nov. 29, and were repulsed, with serious losses.

The Emperor Maximilian had had an attack of fever; he was better, however, and had issued a proclamation announcing that the National Mexican Convention was about to be convoked to decide whether the empire was to continue. His Majesty was receiving support from quarters where he least expected it, and, among others, the Republican General Diaz, with 8000 men, had gone over to him.

BRITISH AMERICA.

It is understood that the delegates from the British North American provinces have succeeded in so revising the Quebec scheme as to secure its provisional adoption by a unanimous vote. The matter will now pass into Lord Carnarvon's hands, and, should the Government approve of the scheme, it will be embodied in a bill, and submitted to Parliament for approval.

Thomas Madden, a Fenian prisoner, has been sentenced to be hanged at Sweetsburg, Canada, on the 15th of February.

GARIBALDI ON THE EASTERN QUESTION.

GENERAL GARIBALDI has addressed the following letter upon the Eastern question to a friend near London:—

Caprera, Dec. 18, 1866.

That I love England with the affection of a son you cannot doubt, and that it is ever the desire of my heart to see her in the first rank among nations is equally certain; but to care for the errors of her Ministers—to that I cannot lend myself. I repeat, therefore, to your statement that which I have stated to our own—Do well, and you will receive praise; but to lavish praise on those who do evil is servile adulation, and I never flatter. In the war of giants waged by England against the First Emperor, I search in the pages of those histories of your country which narrate it for one single expression of condemnation at the expenditure of millions of lives and millions of money sacrificed to combat one despotism, indeed, but certainly to sustain another not less exacting. Who, however, on the other hand, will not confess, with me, that the services rendered by England to the cause of human progress have been immense? And I in particular bear testimony to the benefits received from you by Italy in 1860, without which we should not now be exulting in the embrace of every member of the Italian family. But when I see the Government of this my adopted country allied with Austria and with Turkey, I must tell you the truth—namely, that I inhale the fumes of a charnel-house, which all the national vitality may be unable to dispel, if Great Britain places herself in contact with these dead corpses. I would rather see her using her power and her influence to support those oppressed nationalities at present going to decay in the putrid atmosphere of despotism, but who, remaining constant to their desire of purifying themselves, must certainly rise one day or another to their natural places in the fraternity of free nations.

Let us leave Austria, whose Emperor ought to receive the fate of his brother, Emperor of Mexico, and which exists only through the dissensions of the nationalities checkmating each other's efforts towards emancipation.

Let us travel to Turkey, cosmopolitan as I am, and a believer in that God who desires not factions and discords, but, on the contrary, that men should love each other as brethren (which fraternisation can only be possible, however, when we send the Dervish to the spade and the Romish priest to the mattock). Believing all this, I can make no difference between the natives of the plains of Tartary and my countrymen born on the sunny hills of Rome.

But have you any idea what this despotism of the Turks protested against by you really is? I will give you an example.

One day, in the port of Olivieri, in the island of Mitylene, I inquired of a Greek peasant the reason why he did not gather the olives, instead of permitting them to perish on the ground. "Because," he answered "the Pacha buys up all the olives, and we are compelled to deliver them to him at such a low price that it would not pay the expense of gathering them in."

Behold how the interest of this poor remnant of Christians is neglected in temporal matters; and for the rest, for all that concerns the prostitution of the body and of the soul, how am I to relate it to you, who have so kind a heart and who have a son and daughters? It is most horrible. And if I do not speak of it, oh! forgive me; it is for the sake of decency, and from the respect which I owe you, that I cannot detail to you such brutalities.

Well, now I have laid before you the condition of the Christians under Islam, and Britain—the classic ground of human rights, the protectress of the oppressed, the emancipatrix of the slave—persists in upholding these fruits of a despotism the most inhuman and the most monstrous.

In 1827, England, France, and Russia, in one of those outbursts of generosity which God sometimes excites in great minds, accomplished one of those facts which in the history of nations are followed by universal gratitude. Let them complete the sublime task, let them spare to humanity a fresh torrent of blood, and they will receive from her a thousand benedictions.

G. GARIBALDI.

ADDRESS OF THE ITALIAN SENATE TO THE KING.

FOLLOWING is the Address, in reply to the Speech from the Throne, voted by the Italian Senate:—

Sire,—Extreme sacrifices, magnanimous designs, such as only the consciousness of right and the firm will to make it prevail could inspire, have guided Italy to the glorious accomplishment of her destinies, which has been attained, thanks to two noble and powerful alliances, and by ways different from those which human sagacity could foresee.

Italy first returns thanks for this result to Providence, and next to the King who has gloriously guided her, to the land and sea forces and to the intrepid volunteers who shed their blood for the country, to the co-operation of two great nations, to the moral support and the sympathies testified by others.

Augmented by the conclusion of peace, by illustrious provinces she so greatly desired, and by formidable defences, Italy presses around your throne while awaiting that agreement between Church and State of which your Majesty has spoken, and which is the wish and the hope not only of the Italians, but of all the Catholic world, and which must be carried out in such a manner that the Church, truly free and independent in its sublime sphere, does not afford any impediment to the State in the exercise of its sovereign rights and in the development of its legitimate aspirations. This will be the seal of our greatness and the starting-point of a revival of religious feeling, in case, possibly owing to the ardour of past struggles, it may anywhere have fallen off.

With accustomed wisdom, your Majesty has correctly announced that, Italy being now completed, it is time to organise her definitively by providing for interior affairs, military, economic, and administrative. The Senate entirely agrees with your Majesty in the idea of so constituting the military forces that, without too heavy outlay, Italy may keep the place

appertaining to her among great nations. But it hopes that in rearranging the military institutions the problem will be definitively settled, for frequent modifications in this respect are a source to finance.

Retrenchment upon a large scale is indispensable to re-establish the position of the public treasury. The Senate hopes that your Majesty's Government, which has already entered upon this course, will courageously pursue its task. One consideration that cannot have escaped its perspicacity is that a source of retrenchment worthy of attention will be found in caution to avoid that system of incessant changes in the staff of provincial functionaries which entails even more lamentable consequences upon administrative order and the interest of the provinces than in an economic point of view.

Patriotism enables citizens to endure the taxes, although very heavy; but it is more difficult to tolerate the vexatious method of their levy, their unequal distribution, and the uncertainty of the bases of their assessment, which give cause to disagreements both frequent and costly to the rate-payers. The Senate has heard with joy from your Majesty's august mouth the promise of bills to remove these serious inconveniences. In the examination of those bills the Senate will display all that diligence and maturity of mind your Majesty and Italy have a right to expect.

Sire,—The Senate cannot omit to do homage to another great principle proclaimed by your Majesty. All the solicitude of the King and of his Government to revive the economic conditions of Italy would be far from proving sufficient if it were not seconded and ripened by individual activity and initiative.

The interference of the Government in these economic undertakings is useful in certain cases, but more frequently it is pernicious. Agriculture, trade, and commerce offer inexhaustible sources of prosperity to individual, intelligent, and persevering labour, to the collective efforts of private companies, armed with sufficient capital and the requisite knowledge.

The Senate, with your Majesty, desires that our courageous and intelligent youth should not forget that it was not by incessant discussion, but by action, that our ancestors enriched their country and made it illustrious.

Public education, in its various branches, and especially in technical knowledge, claims the care of the Government and all the attentions of the Senate. Up to the present time there have been too many disastrous experiments upon various systems, which have only produced very little fruit. Let us hope that the time has arrived for definitive reorganisation established upon better bases.

Sire,—The Senate is persuaded that Italy feels profoundly the great responsibility that weighs upon her; that the nation will know how to use liberty without abusing it; that the Government, by the sagacity and maturity of its views, the stability of its plans, the value of the men it employs, will acquire that authority which it requires to administer properly; and that the empire of the law will be complete, evident, absolute, and perpetual over the governors as well as the governed.

THE CHILDREN in the public schools in Fall River, Mass., use tobacco, and become intoxicated to such an extent that the Superintendent of Schools has written a public letter on the subject.

THE OAKS COLLIERY CATASTROPHE.—The official list which has just been given out as correct as possible from the books places the number of persons killed at 351; consisting of four deputies, thirty-two day men, fifty-seven day boys, 115 coal-getters, 120 hurriers, and 22 volunteers; but it is just possible that there may be one or two volunteers whose names have not been ascertained. Of the entire number seventy-five were brought out, of which five only are now alive—three men and two boys. There are, therefore, no less than 276 bodies now in the pit, and when the fire will be so far extinguished as to allow of their being recovered no one can tell. But it is expected that when all the shafts have been sealed up no considerable time will elapse before an attempt will be made to test the practicability of descending.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF THE CHURCH-RATE DIFFICULTY.—A gentleman possessing an estate near Brossley, in Shropshire, has hit upon an original plan for settling the church-rate question among his tenants, several of whom are Dissenters, and notoriously opposed to the tax. He has written a circular letter, in which he makes them acquainted with his desire that they should pay the church rate without demur. He, however, acknowledges the possibility of some of them having religious scruples which would prevent them from paying church rates except under compulsion; and he adds that any thus circumstanced are at liberty to follow the dictates of their conscience, and in such case he will pay the rate for them, increasing their rent by the precise amount thus disbursed. He claims for this scheme that it will be satisfactory to all parties, inasmuch as Dissenters will not be called upon to act contrary to their principles, and, at the same time, the revenues of the Church will be duly maintained.

THE LATE TRADES' REFORM DEMONSTRATION.—On Tuesday evening a special meeting of the executive council of the Working Men's Association was held at the offices, in Bolt-court, Fleet-street.—Mr. G. Potter in the chair—to consider the propriety of taking legal proceedings against the lessee of the Ashburnham Grounds for breach of contract and for special damages, consequent upon his refusal to allow the Reform meeting to be held on the above ground on the 3rd of December last. A report was read by the secretary, which estimated the extra expenses incurred by the committee through the refusal—in printing fresh bills, issuing new advertisements, and in procuring another place, combined with the stoppage of the sale of tickets for nearly a week—at upwards of £250. The letter of Mr. Adams, the agent of the lessee, letting the ground to the committee, together with the correspondence forbidding the meeting, had been submitted to a legal opinion, which was in favour of an action at law lying against the lessee. After some discussion, it was unanimously resolved that the solicitor of the association be instructed at once to commence an action against the lessee of the Ashburnham Grounds for breach of contract and special damages, counsel's opinion being in favour of such a course. A resolution was also adopted to be submitted to the next trades delegate meeting for keeping the present trades organisation intact pending the coming Session of Parliament.

NEW-YEAR'S DAY CUSTOM IN RUSSIA.

"ILKA land has its ain laugh"—that is, each country has customs peculiar to itself. Among most peoples the advent of a new year is celebrated by festivities of some kind, superstitious rites not unfrequently mingling with the other proceedings incident to the time. In Russia a curious custom obtains, which is portrayed in the accompanying illustration. On New-Year's Eve young ladies and gentlemen write their greatest wish on a slip of paper, which they fold up, and at the first stroke of midnight set it on fire. If the paper is all burnt away by the time the clock has done striking, the wish will be granted; but if the smallest particle of the paper remains unconsumed, the wish will never be obtained, or its realisation will at least be indefinitely postponed. We are not sure whether there is an appeal allowed in this decision of fate—whether, in fact, a disappointed devotee may not try for "better luck next time;" but should suppose it only reasonable that an opportunity should be permitted both to the oracle and the devotee of rectifying mistakes which, after all, might only be awkwardnesses in manipulation. For instance, supposing one consultant of the fates should use a larger bit of paper than another, or should fold up his pellet a little too tightly, so as to impede combustion, or commit any other similar blunder, would the result be deemed conclusive all the same? We hope not. Another trial next year would be only fair to all parties concerned.

GAVARNI'S LAST DESIGN.

THE name of Gavarni must be almost as familiar to most Londoners as that of their own celebrated pictorial humorists. He was in France what John Leech was in England; and, now that he is dead, there is nobody who can quite fill his place. The strong and yet facile hand is still; and no living caricaturist—well, no; we will still say pictorial humorist—can dash off those lifelike representations of Parisian character which he so constantly produced. It is probable that he and Mr. Leech were well acquainted, for their mutual friend was Mr. Albert Smith, who was, to some extent, to light literature what they both were to art. Gavarni, however, was essentially French. He came here and stayed with us, and "Gavarni in London" gave to his countrymen and to ourselves several wonderful sketches of English scenes, principally of popular assemblies and social customs. They were all intensely French, however. Perhaps, he could not—at all events he did not—abandon the French hand, the old Parisian touch, the *Charivari* style. His pictures were full of go and spirit; and even when he drew a crowd he gave individuality to almost every figure in it; but his English crowds were somehow composed of men who looked more Gallic than British. We are accustomed to think that Mr. Leech could draw "Mossoo" to the life, and that his foreigners were inimitable. It must be remembered, however, that they were the foreigners of Leicester-square, and were criticised by British eyes. Probably a Frenchman may have failed to recognise in them the same merits which sufficed to make us go into guffaws of laughter. Anyone with a collection of Gavarni's illustrations will have a series of pictures representing Parisian life and manners, as well as some phases of rustic French character, which is not likely soon to be sur-



"WINTER," GAVARNI'S LAST DESIGN.

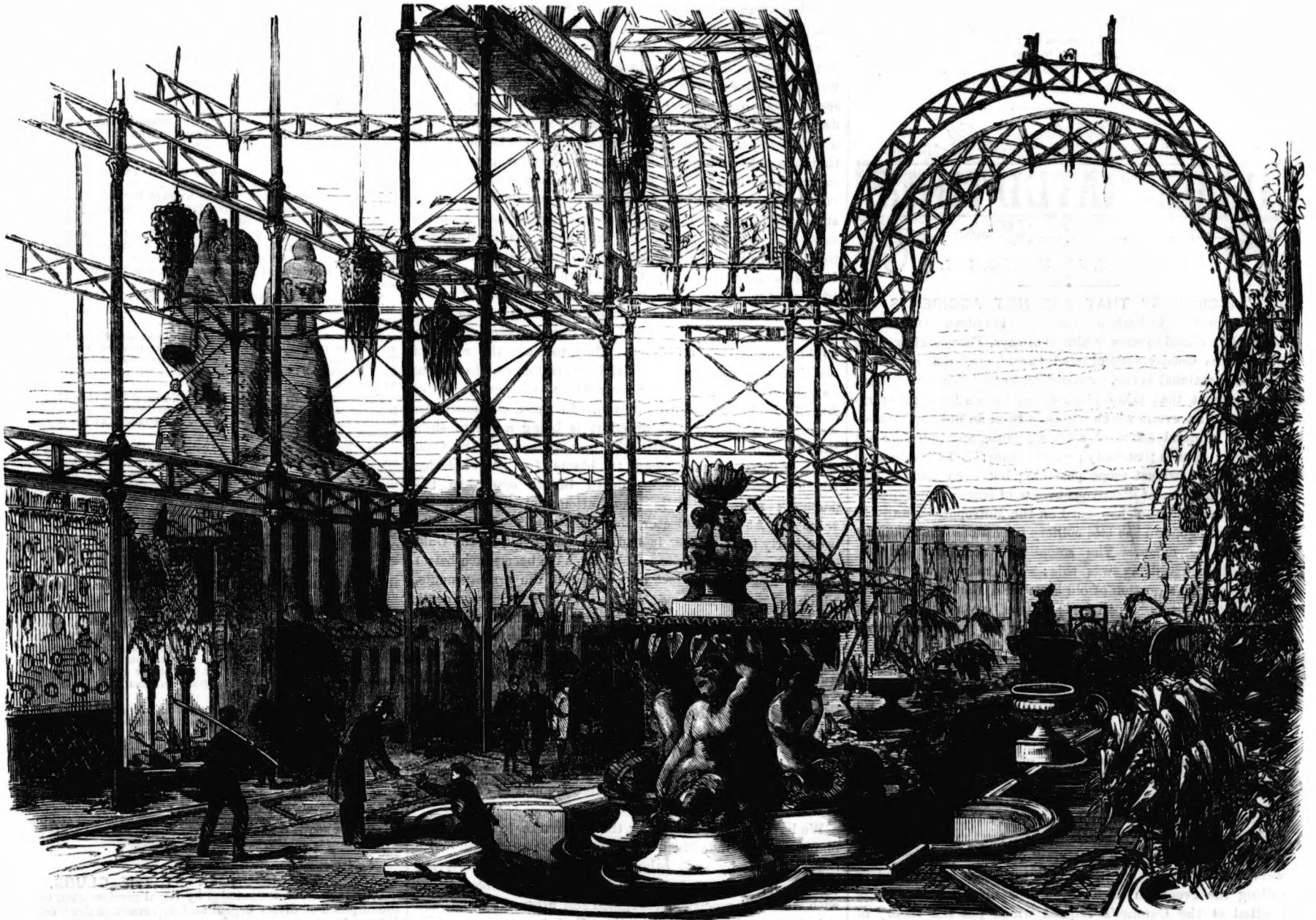
passed by any living artist, and we are glad to be able to present to our readers the last design made by the close observer before his death.

One remarkable anecdote is related of him. After his death his son discovered a packet of papers neatly tied together, and labelled, in Gavarni's graceful writing, "Billets doux." It was supposed that these letters would belong to that secret and almost sacred part of a man's history which have to do with the affections or with the

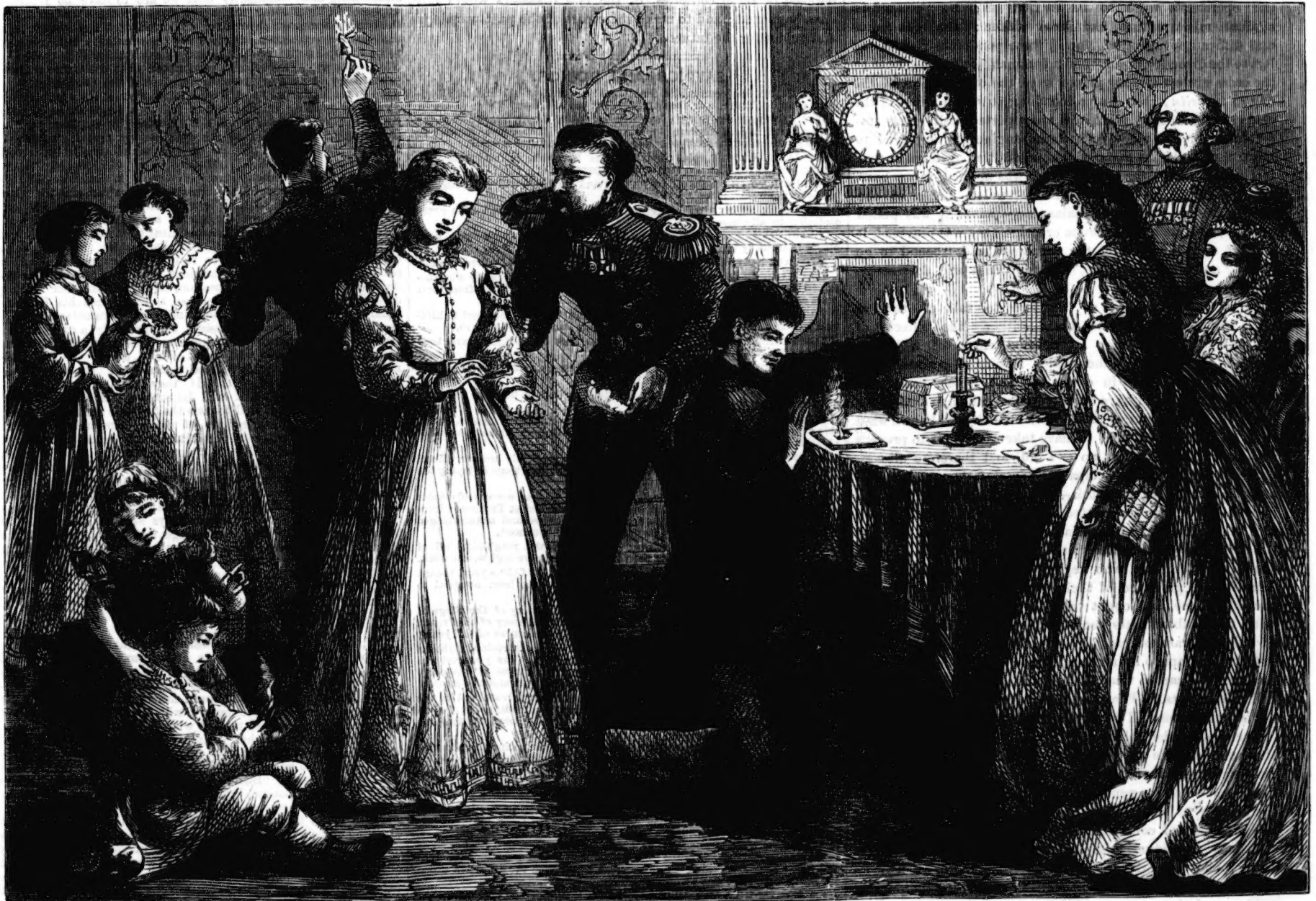
romantic dreams of his youth. On the contrary, the documents were discovered to be a collection of all the unpleasant letters concerning matters relating to law, business, broken promises, unfriendly criticism, and downright abuse, which had been sent to the artist during his life.

Gavarni died on the 23rd of November. He was originally a handicraftsman, but he possessed a great love for art and a keen faculty of observation which gave to his drawings the precise interest so de-

sirable for illustrations in popular periodicals. Although of rather a reserved disposition and very quiet manners, Gavarni was greatly esteemed by a large circle of friends, who appreciated his genuine humour. He was at home in almost any society, and could seize and appropriate to his artistic purpose the peculiarities of all classes of his countrymen; though, perhaps from early acquaintance with their habits and appearance, he seemed most facile in depicting the regular Parisian *ouvriers*.



FIRE AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE: RUINS OF THE TROPICAL DEPARTMENT.



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"ACCIDENTS" THAT ARE NOT ACCIDENTS.

IF we were asked when an accident is not an accident, we should be inclined to answer, almost always. There are few of the occurrences usually denominated "accidents," that really are so in any rational sense. According to Webster, an accident is "an event that takes place without one's foresight or expectation; an event which proceeds from an unknown cause, or is an unusual effort of a known cause, and therefore not expected; chance; casualty; contingency." This is to give the word the widest scope possible; but even then it will not cover some most disastrous events of recent occurrence.

A catastrophe that happened on the Metropolitan Railway a few days ago, and the late colliery explosions, are instances of what we mean. The so-called "accident" on the Metropolitan Railway was this:—The railway at present passes through a portion of old Smithfield Market by an open cutting, but this cutting is to be covered over, and to form a part of the site of the new dead-meat market which is about to be erected. In order to obtain a secure flooring, iron girders have to be laid over the railway. These consist of certain main girders and a number of cross girders. The main girders—two in number, we believe—had been laid; several of the cross girders were in position; and across these another—40 ft. in length, and weighing 3½ tons—was in course of being pulled into its place, when it slipped over, fell upon a train that happened to be passing at the time, crushed a carriage—luckily the last of the train—to atoms, and killed two or three persons and seriously injured several others. These are the facts as they present themselves on a first view of the occurrence; and were nothing more known, we might perhaps be justified in calling the event an accident. But several things were elicited at the Coroner's inquest which put the theory of accident entirely out of the question. The Thames Ironworks Company, by whom the work was being executed, had issued no proper instructions whatever as to how and when the operations were to be carried on; no precautions against misadventure had been taken; the dangerous and difficult operation of placing these ponderous girders was left to the direction of an "under foreman" and a "ganger;" the cross girders already placed were the only support of the one *in transitu*; that was pulled along to within a foot of the centre, or balancing point, the unsupported half being suspended over the railway; a steam-engine was employed to move the ponderous mass, which pulled it along three or four feet "at a jerk;" the engine power was applied, as we have said, when the girder was within twelve inches of the balancing—or, rather, over-balancing—point; it was pulled too far; and, as no check-rope or other stay was provided, it was, of course, as one of the witnesses said, "bound to go over;" and over it did go, carrying death and destruction with it.

Is it not an abuse of language to talk of this as an "accident"? It was neither the effect of an unknown cause nor an unusual effect of a known cause: it was the inevitable result of causes well known and palpably in operation, and which, under the circumstances, could have had no other result than that which occurred. All concerned in the work should have known what would happen, and ought to have taken measures to prevent such an event. But this no one did, and therefore all concerned are more or less culpable. Two of the men immediately in charge of the work—the under foreman and the ganger—have been committed on a charge of manslaughter, and will have to take their trial. And rightly. But they are not the only guilty parties: the managers of the Thames Ironworks Company, who neglected to issue proper instructions for the guidance of their workmen, are every whit as much to blame, and ought to take their places in the dock with their subordinates, for they were unquestionably guilty of culpable carelessness. Carelessness in the heads of an enterprise is apt to induce carelessness in all beneath them; and thus are caused what it is the fashion euphemistically to call "accidents." Punish the heads for faults of omission, and subordinates will be more careful.

Then, as to the colliery explosions. Such explosions are the consequences of accumulations of foul air: accumulations of foul air are usually the results of defective ventilation; and defective ventilation is the effect of ignorance, or inefficiency, or carelessness, or penuriousness in the owners and managers of collieries. This is the course of things, we will not say invariably, but generally. And the late catastrophes in Yorkshire and Staffordshire are, we fear, no exceptions to the rule. Explosions in mines are indubitable evidence of the presence of deleterious gases, and the undetected presence of these gases in such quantities as to

cause explosions is a presumptive evidence of defective working arrangements. The general facts of the matter are simple enough, and no amount of special pleading in regard to minor details can explain them away. Both the Oaks and the Talk-o'-th'-Hill mines, in which these disasters occurred, were old mines. Their character was known. It was no secret that one of them at least—that at Barnsley—was dangerous, for explosions had occurred in it before. And it does not appear that adequate precautions were taken against their possible recurrence. It is unnecessary for us to go into minute practical details, or to propose any specific plan of ventilation for coal-pits. That is not our business. It is sufficient for us to know that if coal-mines can be made safe—and we are not aware that that has been proved to be impossible—these mines ought to have been made safe. It is superfluous to say that they were not safe—the catastrophes of which they have been the theatre show that.

To call such catastrophes "accidents," we again say, is an abuse of language. They could have been foreseen, and they ought to have been prevented. They, too, are the result of well-known causes in almost visible operation, or what might have been visible had proper precautions—such as the use of Ansell's Indicator—been employed. In these circumstances we regret to observe that an effort is being made to show that no one connected with the management of the Oaks Colliery was in any way to blame for an explosion which caused the violent death of no less than 315 persons; and that it is even attempted to decry the value of Ansell's Indicator, though it confessedly had not been fairly tried, if ever it had been employed, in the Oaks pit at all. This is unwise. It would have been much better to have accepted the fact of a defect in the arrangements, which, we repeat, there must have been, or the explosion could not have occurred; to have endeavoured to find out where and in what the defect lay; and to have striven to devise a remedy. We trust that the mining engineers of Yorkshire, and elsewhere, will leave vain squabbles, and bend their efforts to discovering means of ensuring safety in the future rather than to justifying operations in the past. On the part of us all, perhaps, a less loose way of talking of such events—a more rigid restriction of the word accident to occurrences that are really accidental—would tend to induce a higher degree of exactitude in thought, and a greater amount of carefulness in action.

We have no wish, in making these remarks, to cast special blame on any individual. We sympathise profoundly with the sufferers by such calamities—with the owners, the managers, and the workers; and we admire the noble courage with which all concerned abnegated self after the event, and risked life and everything in the effort to carry succour to their fellows. What we wish to do is to point out that faults must have existed in the system of management and working pursued in these collieries, or the late disasters would not have happened; and to make the errors of the past warnings and guides for the future.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has commanded that the 45th (or Nottinghamshire) Regiment shall, in future, bear the title of "Sherwood Foresters."

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA has just signed a decree suppressing the Italian Opera in St. Petersburg for the year 1867. The reason appears to be the smallness of the receipts compared with the enormous cost.

SIR JAMES BROOKE, some time Rajah of Sarawak, is dangerously ill, having been seized with a severe attack of paralysis.

THE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF RUSSIA and his bride will visit England in the spring.

SIR HENRY STOKES, on his return to Malta, was received with great cordiality by all classes.

CONSUL CAMERON and Mr. Rassam and their friends have again been placed in irons by the Emperor Theodore of Abyssinia.

A DECREE has just been issued abolishing tonnage duties in French ports.

THE EARL OF MINTO has informed his tenants at Lochgelly who sustained loss by the rinderpest that he intends making a deduction from their rents equal to the loss sustained.

PRODUCTS, as well French as foreign, intended for the Universal Exhibition will be admitted within the inclosure from Jan. 15 to March 10.

THE RIVERS AMAZON, TOCANTINS, AND SAN FRANCISCO have been thrown open to the trade of all nations.

PRINCE PONIA TOWSKI is now finishing a new mass, which will shortly be performed in the *salons* of Rossini.

THE MEETING OF PARLIAMENT for the dispatch of business has been fixed to take place on Tuesday, Feb. 5.

THE EXPORTATION OF ORANGES from the province of Valencia, Spain, this year has been enormous. From the port of Cullera alone upwards of 14,000 boxes were sent abroad.

STAFF-COMMANDER MORIARTY has been presented by his brother officers with a valuable service of plate, in recognition of his exertions in laying the Atlantic cable.

SIR ROGER TICHEBORNE, the long lost heir to the baronetcy and estates of Titchborne, near Alresford, in Hampshire, has arrived at Titchborne from Australia. He was immediately, on arrival, recognised and acknowledged by his tenantry and by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

INCENDIARY FIRES are becoming common in the neighbourhood of Worcester, two stackyards having been fired, on successive nights, last week.

THE NAVAL CAPTAINS' GOOD-SERVICE PENSION of £150 a year, vacant by the promotion of Captain Astley Cooper Key, has been awarded to Captain John B. Dickson.

THE THIRD VOLUME of General Todleben's "History of the Siege of Sebastopol" and the third volume of Mr. Kinglake's "History of the French and British Alliance in the Crimea" will appear in the course of this year.

THE REV. J. J. BARLOW, of St. Mark's, Gloucester, entertained eighteen of his poor parishioners at dinner on Christmas Day. The youngest was sixty-four years; the eldest, ninety-three; the united ages of the party amounted to 1371 years; the average age, seventy-six years and two months.

THE FEE on filing a petition or other document or private bill in the House of Commons is 2s. and £15 on each of the three readings, as also on the report of the Committee. Out of the 317 bills for next Session, one firm of solicitors has seventy-four.

THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT has entered into the reciprocal arrangement for the abolition of tonnage dues which was originally proposed by France and subsequently agreed to by England.

A BUST OF LORD MACAULAY has, with the permission of the Dean and Chapter, been placed in Westminster Abbey, by his sister, Lady Trevelyan. It rests upon a handsome bracket, designed by Mr. Scott, in the immediate neighbourhood of the grave, and of Addison's statue, in Poets' corner.

SEVEN PERSONS connected with the engineering staff of the cigar-steamer, *Rosa Winans*, left Northfleet, on Christmas Day, in a boat to go on board their vessel. They failed to arrive on board, and next day the boat was found bottom upwards. Two boatmen who rowed the dingey in which the party were have also been lost.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL will shortly benefit to the extent of £5000 by the will of Mr. J. Scrivener, lately deceased; this amount is bequeathed in reversion. Landed property, believed to be of considerable value, is devised by the same testator to St. George's and Middlesex Hospitals.

THE OWNERS OF THE AMERICAN YACHTS, whose race across the Atlantic has attracted so much attention, were entertained at dinner, at West Cowes, on Saturday evening last. The chairman was Sir John Simeon, M.P., and several interesting speeches were made.

A MARBLE BUST OF THE SCULPTOR GIBSON has just been placed in the parish church of Conway. The bust is by Mr. Theed, and is the one which Gibson himself preferred of all that had been taken of him.

A TURTLE-DOVE is now in the aviary at Knowsley which hatched two young ones in a tree in the open ground on Christmas morning. The same pair of doves hatched, on Christmas Day last year, in the same tree, and on New-Year's Day the year before.

A MAN in Lewisburg, Ohio, having recently died of delirium tremens, his widow brought a suit against two men who ordinarily sold him liquor. The county court awarded her 500 dols. from one and 200 dols. from the other.

THE NEWS FROM IRELAND still remains very unsatisfactory, arrests of alleged Fenians continue to be made, and at Belfast, on Monday, nine persons were apprehended. In the house of Michael O'Hanlon, one of the prisoners, three casks of gunpowder, several rifles, bayonets, swords, and some bottles of Greek fire were found.

THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY has just issued their useful almanack for 1867, which details the progress made in their Fire and Life business. It appears that the fire premium income has, in twenty years, increased to £144,000. New life policies are being issued at the rate of about £1,000,000 annually.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA has conferred the order of the Black Eagle upon M. de Lavalette, the French Minister of the Interior, and upon M. Benedetti, French Ambassador at the Prussian Court.

THE NEW LINES of the Metropolitan Extension of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, from Brixton to the new railway bridge over the Thames, and on to the Victoria station, were opened for traffic on Tuesday. There are now double lines throughout the entire length from Ludgate-hill to Victoria.

FOUR YEARS AGO the books of the National Debt Commissioners showed less than £1,700,000 belonging to the Post Office savings-banks. Two years ago the amounts had risen to nearly £5,000,000. At the beginning of the present month it had reached £8,155,208.

THE FIRST INSTALLMENT of 2,000,000*l.*, paid by the Italian Government on account of the one year's interest on its proportion of the Pontifical debt, which it is to disburse in cash, arrived at Rome a few days ago; and the unaccustomed jingle as it was poured into coffers too often empty must have been sweet music to the ears of the Vatican treasurer.

THE MEMORIAL to be generally distributed among the Prussian combatants in the successful campaign is just being turned out by the foundries. It consists of a cross cast from the metal of Austrian guns, and bearing on one side the following inscription:—"God was with us, to Him be the praise;" and on the reverse, "Konigsgratz, July 3, 1866."

THROUGHOUT Yorkshire, Northumberland, Durham, and generally over the northern counties, snow fell, in some places very heavily, on Monday night. At Shields and Hartlepool it blew a gale at the same time, the sea was very boisterous, and many ships had to run for shelter.

A SON OF GENERAL R. E. LEE was present at a dinner-party recently in Richmond, when one of the guests proposed as a toast, "The Fallen Flag." Colonel Lee promptly placed his hand upon his glass and rose. "Gentlemen," said he, "this will not do. We are pardoned prisoners. We have now but one flag, and that is the flag of our whole country—the glorious old stars and stripes. I can recognise no other, fight for no other, and will drink to no other."

LORD ELCHO thinks that we ought to restore balloting for the militia. So long as the volunteer force was not in existence there might have been some hardship in doing this; but if it were provided that all men not volunteers should be liable to serve in the militia, there would be an alternative, each man having the right to choose between the two services.

A CLERGYMAN of Western Massachusetts, who had prepared with much labour and care an appropriate discourse for the recent thanksgiving services at his church, was greatly annoyed to find only about thirty hearers, and a majority of those not of his own flock. The following Sunday, being unusually pleasant, a very large congregation assembled at his church, but no minister appeared; and, though several times sent for at his residence, he left his congregation to go home sermonless.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

PARLIAMENT is commanded by Royal proclamation to meet "for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs" on the 5th of February. Amongst the divers urgent and important affairs will there be a reform bill? Public opinion upon this important question has been ever since the prorogation, and is even now, fluctuating. Only a few days ago a letter from a Conservative, announcing most confidently that we are to have no reform bill, appeared in the *Times*; and a few days ago there was an article in the same paper, which evidently showed that the writer believed that the Government means to avoid the question; but now it seems to be the opinion of political gossips that a bill will be tabled. The *Star*, some short time back, announced that the Government will proceed by preparatory resolutions; but if the Government really wish to settle the question, I cannot believe that they will adopt this course, as nothing could come of it but a large waste of precious time—in short, a staving off the question for another year. The Government is pledged to the eyes, as we say, if it touch this question at all, to produce a bill which shall include both the extension of the franchise and the redistribution of seats, and the discussions on such a bill would absorb every available hour of the Session. If, after all, the Government should decline to meddle with Reform—a policy still on the cards—there will be, no doubt, an amendment to the Address. There has been no fighting amendment proposed since 1859, when, after Lord Derby had dissolved Parliament, he was defeated on an amendment, and had to resign. Of course, if Lord Derby should be defeated on an amendment next Session, or if he should be defeated on any serious question, he will advise her Majesty to dissolve. He has a right to do so, as this is not his Parliament. Your readers, then, will see that, under any circumstances, we shall certainly have a stirring Session, and probably a dissolution, followed by a change of Government. This seems to me to be the course which events will most likely take. If the Government should not bring in a reform bill, they will be defeated on an amendment. If they should bring in a bill, I cannot conceive that it will be such a bill as the House can accept. It may be suffered to pass the first and second readings; but in a reform bill the principles of the measure lurk in the clauses, and when the bill gets into Committee it will be met by such a storm of amendments that nothing but a miracle can save the Government from defeat upon some vital clause. Without, then, pretending to inspiration, I presume to say that dissolution and change of Government before midsummer are imminent. The Conservatives, I know, fancy that if Lord Derby should appeal to the country he will get a majority. But they they have always said so, and have always been disappointed. How can they get a majority? It cannot come from Ireland. There the Liberals, by their Prison Ministers Bill, their Oaths Bill, and that bill of Chichester Fortescue, last session, on the land question, have completely taken the wind out of the Conservative sails. It cannot come from Scotland. Every dissolution increases the Liberal strength in Scotland. Can they expect that from England alone they will get a majority? Such a result seems to me to be simply impossible.

"If, now, we could get up a war, that might save us. The Crimean War postponed the consideration of Reform for twelve years. But, alas! there is no war to be had. If we were to rush to the rescue of Candia, that would be useless for the purpose; for if we were only to threaten Turkey, she would succumb at once. But we cannot hope that our Foreign Secretary will do even this. Malmesbury might; but Stanley is so tainted with these modern, cowardly non-intervention doctrines that certainly he will not. Last year there was some probability that we might be dragged into the quarrel which seemed to be imminent between Prussia and France; but that has all blown over. Bismarck is so infernally clever; and as to Louis Napoleon, Cobden, with his poisonous international doctrines, has so completely spoiled him, that there is no hope in France; and so there is no hope anywhere." I have put this as a quotation, meaning thereby to indicate the reflections of a Conservative. Some of your readers may suspect me of uncharitableness, fancying that no man now can be found who would wish to have a war rather than a reform bill or merely to keep a party in power. Well, let us hope not. But I remember that, when the Crimean War broke out, this was a common remark amongst Conservatives:—"Well, Johnny Russell will have to drop his Reform Bill; that is one good effect of the war." And he under-

stands little of Conservatism who does not know that war to the sturdy, old-fashioned Conservative mind is a far less evil than the extension of the franchise. Besides, are there not many so-called philosophers who are ready to prove that war is by no means an unmixed curse; nay, on the contrary, that in some of its aspects it is a positive blessing.

But will the Government meet the shock of arms—will it not fall to pieces from want of cohesion in its integral parts? We all know that there must be a good deal of antagonism between some of its members. As a whole, it has but little natural tendency to cohere, but is bound together merely by the fragile band of party necessity. This I have often shown; and report says that this band is strained almost to breaking. The Reform question, if it has been seriously considered, must have been a cause of discord. But there are other questions now under consideration which, it is said, have given rise, or will give rise, to differences which must sooner or later explode the Cabinet. Thus, Sir John Pakington cannot get rid of the idea that he has a mission. He is, he thinks, appointed by Providence to reconstruct the Navy, and that rapidly. But to do this he wants money; not in dribs and drabs of a million or two a year, but in vast sums. Disraeli, however, turns but a cold and languid ear to all this; thinks probably of his famous phrase "bloated armaments," points to the fact that we have already thirty-six armour-plated ships actually fit for sea; and is of opinion that we may proceed to reconstruct our Navy gradually, and not with costly hurry. But whatever he may think, he will not slacken his purse-strings. Sir John wanted to draw upon the future; but not only will the Chancellor of the Exchequer not consent to this, but will not promise an extra vote. Whereupon Sir John is angry, and, so says rumour, threatens to resign. It does not appear, though, that this threat alarms the imperturbable Chancellor. Nor do I believe that the retirement of Sir John at once would break up the Government. But it is said that the old General, the Secretary at War, is recalcitrant. Dizzy wants to overhaul the old General's department, which, as everybody knows, sadly wants overhauling, certain official barnacles having attached themselves to it and sadly impeded its action; and at this suggestion of Disraeli the old General winces. And so, altogether, the Cabinet is not by any means a happy family.

The defeat of Captain Talbot in Waterford county has caused a good deal of jubilation amongst the Liberals; and the news of it has been received with surprise. But why should it? Waterford county has always been Liberal. Only twice since the Reform Bill has it returned a Conservative; and on each of these occasions there was no contest. It 1859 it returned Captain Talbot; in 1865 the Earl of Tyrone. The Marquis of Waterford has an immense estate there; but he cannot effectually command his tenantry. The Duke of Devonshire and Lord Stuart de Decies have both large landed properties; but they are Liberals. Captain Talbot, the defeated candidate, is second son of the Earl of Talbot and Shrewsbury. He (the Captain) is in the Royal Navy. Of Mr. de la Poer I know nothing. He has never been in Parliament; nor does his name appear in Acland's list of members returned since 1832.

There are some thirty notices of motions in the Order Book—put there at the close of last Session—and some of them are worthy of a line or two. Mr. Blake, of Waterford town, means to propose a bill to amend the law relative to charitable donations and bequests in Ireland. This, I suspect, is in the interest of the Roman Catholic Church. Lord Ernest Bruce has given the following notice:—"On the Sessional orders (that is, when the Sessional orders are passed) to draw the attention of the House to the present system of admitting strangers to the House, whereby not only all the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of Great Britain and Ireland (wrong here, my Lord; only Peers in Parliament have the right), but all their eldest sons (wrong again; only the eldest sons of Peers in Parliament) have free access to the limited space below the Bar, to the exclusion of the eldest and other sons of members of this House (wrong once more; members' sons at school have the *entrée*), no similar privilege being granted by the House of Lords to the members of the House of Commons. Also, as to the number of strangers who are admitted below the Bar in preference to members' sons, or to members of Parliament and members of foreign legislative assemblies. (Here, again, must be a blunder. No one has preference of a member of the Commons' House; he may go where he pleases, of course.) Also, to the present arrangement for the admission of ladies, whereby only twenty-six seats out of about forty are at the disposal of members; and to suggest that a Committee be appointed to assist Mr. Speaker in these matters." With the exception of the blunders, this is a very pertinent notice. It does seem very odd that the eldest sons of peers in Parliament should have the *entrée*, whilst eldest sons of members, unless they be at school, are excluded. But I hardly see how it can be changed. The House of Commons would hardly like to abolish the ancient privilege of the House of Peers; and the gallery below the bar is so small that, unless you take away the privileges of the sons of peers, you cannot grant any more. In short, it is the old story. The House is wretchedly small and uncomfortable. It will not hold more than three fourths of the members, and it not unfrequently happens that some of the most eminent men in Europe come down and cannot possibly be admitted. But the sting of this notice is in its tail. The forty seats in the Ladies' Gallery were all at the disposal of the members; but when Mr. Denison was elected he cut off a considerable space as a private box for Lady Charlotte Denison, his wife. There has always been, since this was done, a good deal of dissatisfaction amongst the members; but nobody gave it voice before. I have no doubt that Mr. Speaker has been a good deal annoyed by this notice, and hence, I suspect, the addition to the Ladies' Gallery which has been made since last Session. One more bench has been added to it at the back. This will give six or seven more seats; but what are they amongst so many applicants? And what a hole that gallery is! The public would be astonished if they could see the ladies packed in their miserable, dark crib.

The British Institution is, after all, to be opened for a short season. A petition was presented to the directors, signed by a large and important body of artists, and the directors have determined, very properly, to make the best use they can of the time still allowed them by their lease. Accordingly, we are to have an exhibition towards the latter end of February or the beginning of March. The time allowed is very short, and I fear that the artists will be somewhat put to it to produce anything in the way of large pictures.—The first conversation of the Langham Society, which took place on New-Year's Eve, showed signs of this; but few important works were exhibited, and most of the canvases were unfinished. There were, nevertheless, some works which will do the institution credit. Mr. Weekes has seldom painted anything more truthful than the tiny subject I saw on the easel on Monday; and Mr. Fitzgerald has lost none of the rich colour and rare fancy which distinguish him. Mr. Hayes's unfinished sea-piece was, if possible, finer than ever; and Mr. H. Moore, Mr. Hargett, and Mr. C. J. Lewis will appear to advantage. The water colours exhibited were not, of course, for the British Institution; but I shall look for them with interest in the exhibitions. Mr. Linton gathers force; and there are others whose names are well known in association with the Langham, who have done work that will lend still more lustre to the established fame of this excellent society. A portfolio of Mr. Duncan's sketches was one of the treats of the evening. I had almost forgotten to note—perhaps from the isolating fact that it was the best picture there—that Mr. E. C. Barnes exhibited his version of "Mariana." The subject has often been treated, but never more happily. Mr. Barnes has studied the poem, and has preferred to give the poet's idea rather than tack the poet's lines to a subject of his own. The intensity of loneliness and stillness, the completeness of the silent grief, are admirably given. I need hardly say that the painting is good and telling.

We have this week had a heavy fall of snow in London. A slight sprinkling—just "enough to swear by"—fell on New-Year's Day; but on Wednesday morning the storm came on in earnest. In a few hours' time the streets were lying under cover of several inches of snow. Traffic was greatly impeded, and in many respects entirely suspended. Pedestrian locomotion was exceedingly difficult and

fatiguing; most of the omnibuses stopped running, and those which persevered had to be furnished with extra horses, as had all cabs that continued plying for hire. Waggon and other vehicles stuck fast in all directions, progress with anything of a load being impossible. Business suffered a serious interruption; great inconvenience was occasioned, and much annoyance caused, by the continuance of this state of things for even one day; but at the time I write two days have passed; the "block" is nearly as serious as ever, and no effective effort has been made to remove the cause. In its present state, and while frost lasts, the snow, although inconvenient, is clean, and not exactly an intolerable nuisance; but when thaw comes, if nothing is done in the meanwhile to clear the streets, we shall be plunged into such another "Slough of Despond" as overtook us last year from a similar cause. And, so far as I can see, no effort is being made to obviate such an infliction. I have heard, indeed, that on Wednesday night about twenty carts and a hundred men were occupied in clearing the leading thoroughfare in upper Camden Town and Kentish Town. The effort was creditable to the officials of the district, and I hope the dwellers therein are duly grateful; but this nibble was insignificant—almost ludicrous—when we remember the regions, their importance and extent, which were utterly uncared for. The snow, while dry—as on Wednesday and Thursday—could have been cleared off the streets with comparative ease; but the scavengers were quiescent. I don't know whether they will move ere this reaches the hands of your readers; but as yet they make no sign. Snow is not mud; and as, I suppose, the cleaning contracts specify mud only—or, at least, do not specify snow—as what the streets are to be cleared of, the contractors apparently decline to touch anything not "nominated in the bond;" and our vestry and other officials are too supine in the discharge of their duties to take the trouble of compelling a more liberal interpretation of their obligations to the public on the part of the contractors for scavenging. But this is not wonderful when we remember that during the past unusually wet summer and autumn the streets of the metropolis generally were in the most disgraceful state, the minimum of care in cleansing having been bestowed when a maximum of attention was required. Such, however, is the way in which the affairs of this great city are mismanaged. When the snow now on the ground becomes melted, we shall probably have a repetition of the horrors of last winter. Will that do anything to help on municipal reform, I wonder?

I hear that Mr. Gye has secured for the Royal Italian Opera the two new works about which, at the present moment, all musical Europe is most interested—the "Don Carlos" of Signor Verdi, which is to "inaugurate" the opening of the New Grand Opera in Paris, and the "Romeo et Juliet" of M. Gounod, upon which the future fortunes of the Théâtre Lyrique are more or less staked.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER. THE MAGAZINES.

The *Fortnightly Review*, which contains a "Child's Winter Song" by Mr. Swinburne, must wait till next week. I have a strong opinion, Mr. Editor, as to that Bright-Morley correspondence, upon which scarcely a pen in the whole press is silent; but it cannot stop where it is; and I should think Mr. Morley will scarcely omit, during the next few days, to push the matter a step further. I fear, however, there is an unquotable remark of Sancho Panza which applies to it. Since the foregoing was in type, I have seen the letters of Mr. H. D. Seymour and Mr. Morley in the *Times*. I am sorry to find that they do not push the matter any further. Mr. Seymour appears to be the writer; but, though he apologises in the *Fortnightly* for having quoted Mr. Bright as having said "all the land in England and Scotland," instead of half of it, he takes no notice of the other part of the charge of garbling. In the passage misquoted from his speech, Mr. Bright held the balance evenly between rich and poor as to the right or capacity to govern. He was misquoted as saying that "the poor are the only people fit to legislate for the rich," and the worst possible inference was drawn from the copyist's or garbler's own blunder! What Mr. Bright really said was:—"I deny altogether that the rich alone are qualified to legislate for the poor, any more than that the poor alone would be qualified to legislate for the rich. My honest belief is that if we could be all called upon to legislate for all, that all would be more justly treated, and would be more happy than we are now. We should then have an average—we should have the influence of wealth and of high culture, and of those qualities that come from leisure, and the influence of those robust qualities that come from industry and from labour." Of this part of the question Mr. Seymour has taken no notice; and it is scarcely too much to add, that the whole affair gives considerable plausibility to what I ventured to say last week about the too-evident tendency of our Journalism.

Blackwood begins this month a very pretty-looking idyllic story entitled "Brownlows." Everybody will like it. O'Dowd suggests to novelists that, instead of elaborately describing their characters in the body of the story, they should put a table of *dramatis personæ* at the beginning. The idea is not new, Mr. O'Dowd; but it is not bad either. The papers on the late Admiral Parker and on Conington's *Æneid* are both admirable in their way. That on American Women and Children is more moderate than was to be expected from *Blackwood*, but scarcely just, and it contains nothing new. We have read every line of it before. That American women spoil their teeth with "candies" and their complexions with hot air, and rarely bloom into the handsome matronly maturity which we so much admire in England—this, and much more, is very familiar to the general reader. The same of the "Free Lovers" business. But, as to the ladies, we must remember, tastes differ. Poor Mr. Hawthorne could not stand a stout, strong Englishwoman: he said she reminded him of beef. Well, what if she did? It is better to be reminded of beef than of mummy. What did Mr. Hawthorne think of the Milo Venus? I have now before me a photograph of a mountain-dew girl, taken in Killarney. She could knock a man like me or Mr. Hawthorne into the middle of next week with her rosy "left;" and, for my part, I think her a splendid creature. I would that "Heaven had made me such a man!"

Macmillan contains rather an affected article by Lord Hobart on "The Mission of Richard Cobden." Cobden, Lord Hobart thinks, was the first "international man" that ever lived. Mr. Palgrave on "Conington's *Æneid*" is, of course, interesting. Mrs. Norton's "Old Sir Douglas" is again discontinued—for a number only. The lady is ill. "The Flower-girl of Sinyon" is, however, a very charming stop-gap. I am glad to observe, from an advertisement slip attached to *Macmillan*, that the *Globe* Shakespeare is in its eightieth thousand.

The *Churchman's Family Magazine* is not to drop; the difficulties or "reasons" (which are quite guessable) have been disposed of, and the magazine is continued, only it is published by Houlston and Wright. I have always liked it for its sincerity, seriousness, moderation, and intelligence.

In *Christian Society* there is some very pretty music for a Christmas carol. In this magazine the following sentence occurs apropos of a book with an awful title, which has much puzzled some reviewers:—"I would even venture to say that his work is not altogether destitute of a theological value, and he has at times, perhaps, approximated closely to the feelings and condition of the impenitent and lost while in Hades or Sheol, the intermediate state." I think this is the coolest "perhaps" I ever saw in all my life.

Here is the other *Belgravia*—the one with the yellow cover. The illustrations had better be omitted, if better cannot be done; but the letterpress is very good. "The Holcroft Sewing Society" is admirable. The second verse of the "poem" on page 281 looks as if it had been tampered with, cooked, had something done to it. If not, the author ought to be tampered with, cooked, or done something to; and I don't consider that cooking would be too strong, considering the weather.

In *London Society* the author of an article on "The Beaux Mondes of London and Paris" writes, in the interest of virtue, a highly-flavoured article about things which his bad logic makes worse than

they are in themselves. Here is his argument:—"Peoples' morals are getting laxer, because there is a growing disposition to dispense with authority—people are so radical! Now, the facts are just the reverse. It is under Imperialism, or despotism, that morals decay. The reason is obvious: the despot who maltreats the soul must bite the body, or he cannot hold his own. So it is in France; so it always was; so it will ever be. And if in England and in America people are more lax than they once were, it is because they have taken a leaf out of the book of Imperialism. There is more liberty in London than in Paris, I suppose; but is there less virtue?"

The *Argosy*, besides its stories, contains some interesting articles of travel. "My Love," by Margaret Browne, is poetical in conception, but not in execution; it is unmusical.

In *Aunt Judy* there is a new parable by Mrs. Gatty, "The Universal Language," which is full of tenderness and humour. The "Moral," however, is inexpressed. It's all very well to say, "Go and learn the universal language!" but what is it? On the face of the parable, it is power of musical expression. Did I hear you say, Sympathy? Pardon me; that is not language, though sympathetic expression might be. In fact, this Moral would require very great elaboration. Having followed the parable with intense interest (in the stalls at a pantomime, just under the drum), I could not see my way, and do not now see my way, to a "categorical imperative" that will fit the poem. It can't be morally incumbent on everybody to go and learn to sing like a nightingale. Before now I ought to have said a word for the truthfulness and quiet humour of J. H. G.'s "Mrs. Overthway's Reminiscences." Being a doggy man, too, I take an interest in the new story, "His Name was Hero."

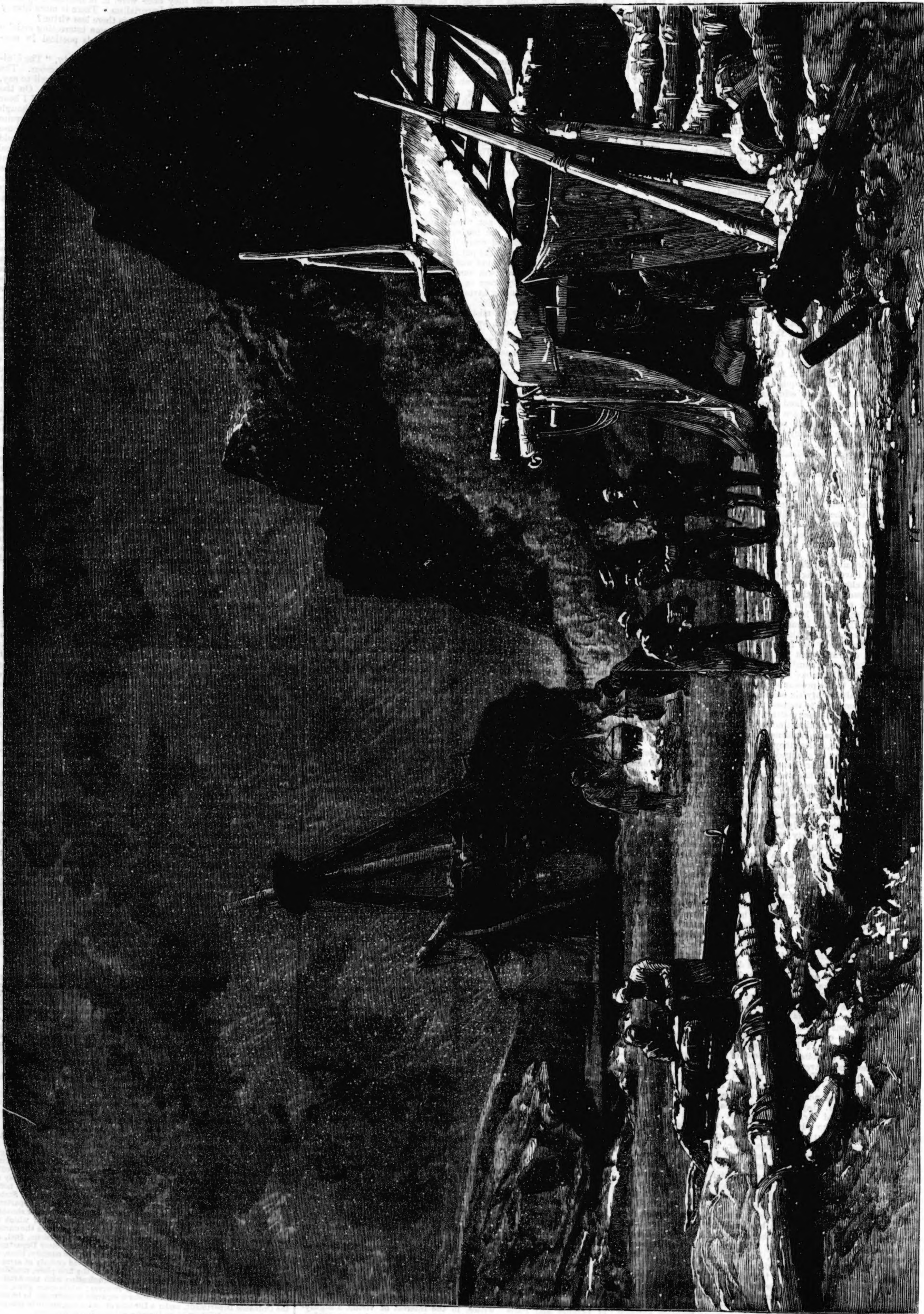
In the *Victoria* I note the following almost incredibly-ludicrous account of the arrangements on board a female emigrant ship:—"The arrangements on board the ship which we have named afford the most unassailable safeguards against any interference with that portion of the occupants whose interests are regarded with especial care—the single women. The whole of the poop cabin is reserved for their use, and they are not permitted to hold any further converse with either the married or single male passengers than what is found absolutely necessary for carrying on the business of the vessel. Two or three of the most respectable married men act as constables, and bring food and whatever else is sent from the other parts of the ship to that in which the single women are located. A cabin is set apart in the poop end for an infirmary, so that even in case of illness, removal to any other part of the vessel is prevented. The sleeping cabin, though not very extensive, is airy and well ventilated, and is approached by a single door and staircase, to prevent even the remotest danger of intrusion." All this admirable precaution should have been put in one brief general statement. The details are absurd; and I only wish John Leech were alive to make a picture in *Punch* out of the lines I have put in italics. Yet the ladies in general will see no fun in them; they will think this is only one case more of the brutal rivalry of the male animal. *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* It is a problem more difficult than novel.

Mr. Editor, I have some gardening publications before me which are not very clever. Why are gardeners such a peculiar race? One of these people tells me to "quote" something which he marks in pencil. I shan't. But I shall quote the following from the *Floral World*. The author is describing his own Rockery:—"Though a distinct and pleasing feature of my very small garden, it is but proper to state that it was originally constructed solely as a screen, to shut out from view the lower part of the garden, where experimental operations render privacy desirable, and where, moreover, there is nothing for people to see." If anybody can find me a neater bull than this I will thank him for it. Mr. Shirley Hibberd is a fine fellow; but he must have watercresses on the brain, or some other gardening disease, to have overlooked that.

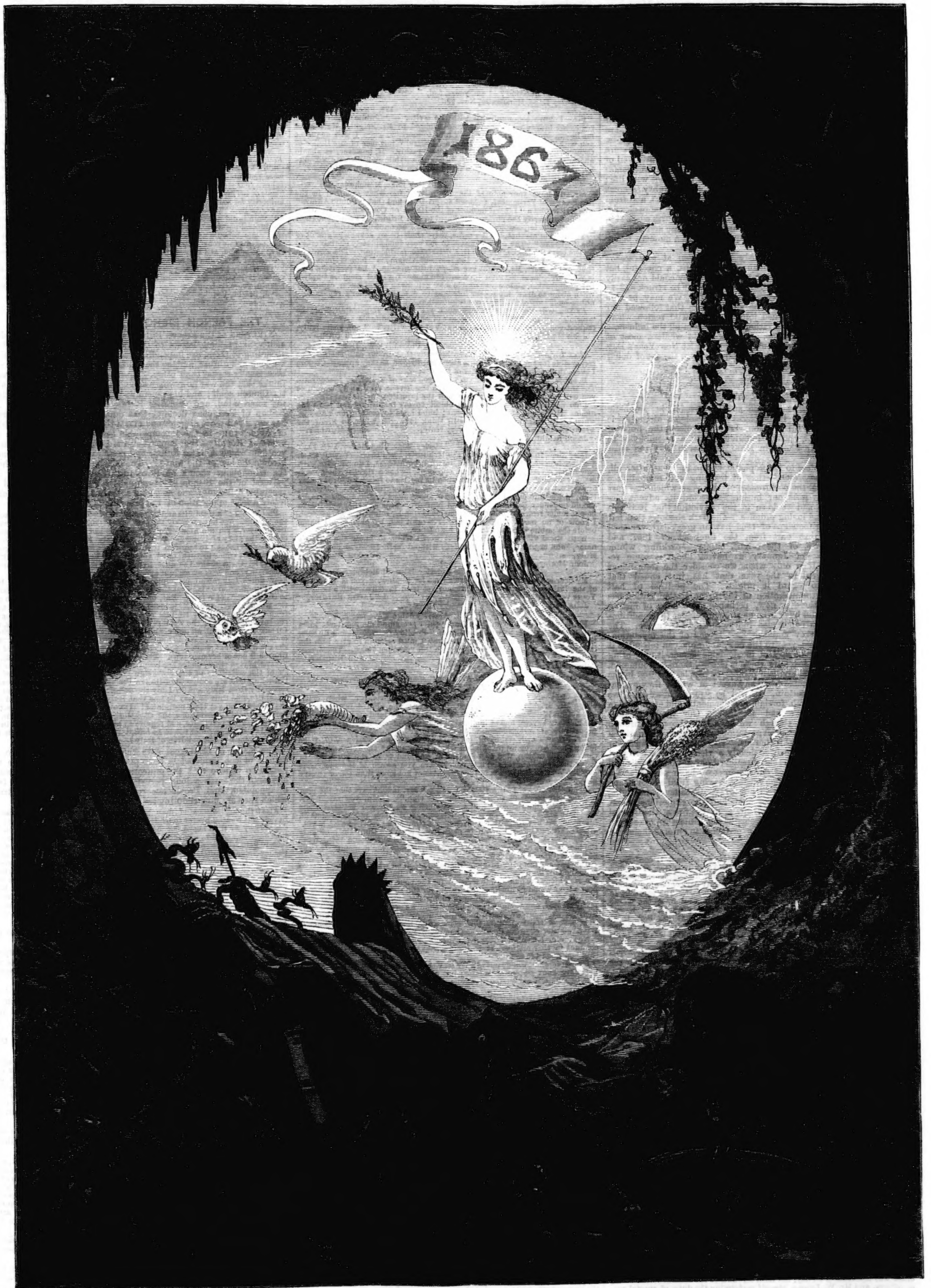
THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

I am glad to report the success of a new burlesque at the St. James's, which was produced on Saturday evening last. The name of the author, Mr. W. S. Gilbert, although known for some time as that of a valuable contributor to the light literature of the day, is new to the London playbills; and there is always a flutter among theatrical folk at the sight of a fresh candidate for public favour. As a rule, managers do not believe in new men. They long looked on gas as an innovation and invader of privileges, and correctness of costume as the prelude to the certain destruction of the drama. They prefer senility to precocity, and like the toothless rather than those who are cutting their teeth. In defiance of the *lex non scripta* of the majority of London theatres, Miss Herbert has been to Mr. Gilbert what Christopher Columbus was to America, and has introduced him to the public. "Dulcamara; or the Little Duck and the Great Quack," an eccentricity founded upon the opera of "L'Elisir d'Amore," was received with roars of laughter. The majority of the songs and dances were encored; and in one case, in which Dr. Dulcamara bears witness to the surprising properties of his own elixir to the favourite air of "Champagne Charlie," the duet and chorus were twice redemanded. The light troupe of the St. James's is unaccustomed to burlesque, and therefore should not be criticised too keenly. The piece was tolerably acted throughout, the chief honours falling to the share of Mr. Frank Matthews, who played Dulcamara, and to Mr. Stoylo, who enacted a comic compound of French Pierrot and Mysterious Warner in a penny romance. One of the hits of the burlesque was the discovery of the fact of the melodramatic Pierrot being Dulcamara's long-lost mother. The dialogue abounds in satirical allusions and sound puns, as well as those puns whose unsoundness and audacity form their claim to distinction. The scenery and dresses are tasteful and appropriate; the transformation scene of the usual Christmas magnificence; and, altogether, Dulcamara is as much at home at the King-street theatre as in his more roomy quarters at the opera. At the fall of the curtain the author was called for, and bowed his acknowledgments from that side of the footlights which many authors tread but once, but which Mr. Gilbert, I hope, is destined to tread often.

A NEW DEPARTMENT IN THE ARMY.—The Special Committee on Army transport and organisation, presided over by Lord Strathairn, have recommended the creation of an Intendance Department in our Army. The service of the Army in the field is at present provided for in all that relates to money, provisions, clothing, medicine, shelter, and transport by the Commissariat Department, by the Military Store Department, by the Purveyors' Department, by the Barrack Department, and by the Military Train, aided by special transport services attached to other departments. If General Peel adopts the recommendations of the report, there will be one department for the administration of all those various branches of the service. The new chief officer, for whom the title of Comptroller-General is suggested, will be responsible to the Secretary of State for War; but his subordinates will be responsible to the General or other officers to whose commands they are attached. His duties are varied and important. All orders as to carriage, provisions, money, and clothing, &c., are to come through him, including the raising and moving of the Treasury money and the charge of the military chest. As to transport, he is to arrange (with the Quartermaster-General's approval on strategic grounds) its quantity and nature; and he is to exercise a supervision over the officers and men of the Transport Corps, to raise local transport in the field, and incorporate it with the regular transport; to direct the departments supplying the troops with provisions, forage, fuel, and light; to control the hospital supplies; to make contracts, as the Commissariat do at present; and to form the channel of communication between the officer in command and the Secretary of State for War on matters of supply and expenditure. His department is to look after the master of men and horses, the system of certificates being dispensed with. The Secretary of State at home, and the General abroad, would thus have one responsible department to deal with and consult. The Commissariat department proper should, it is proposed, undergo considerable modification, the principal of which will be its division into three distinct branches; one charged with the custody, the issue, and accounting of all consumable stores, provisions, fuel, and light; another charged with the duties of the Military Store Department, hospital stores, and camp equipment; the third with the custody, issue, and accounting of all stores for hospitals. The disposal and custody of arms and ammunition, the Committee propose should be, in the first place, confided to a distinct branch, to be conducted in communication with the Artillery, which has charge of the first and second reserves; while spare guns, arms, and munitions of war should be under a separate department, to be called the Ordnance Department, under a Director of Ordnance, and to be composed from the present Military Store Department and Royal Artillery.



NEW-YEAR'S DAY AT THE NORTH POLE.—(DRAWN BY C. JAMES)



THE ADVENT OF 1867.

NEW-YEAR'S DAY AT THE NORTH POLE.

IMAGINE New-Year's Day at the very head-quarters of winter in the land—no, there is no land, it is all ice—in the place which is, as it were, the source and core of frost and snow! There have been worse things than an Arctic festival, however; and, even amidst that strange, wild region, vast in its silent terrors, there have been brave hearts who knew how to be merry when the beginning of a new year came round and found them fast bound in the iron bands of winter, amidst floating but impassable ramparts and gigantic walls of solid ice, or hills of blinding snow, unrelieved by blade or tree, and with scarcely a single shade of colour to break the awful monotony of its deadly white.

They were not all silent terrors, however; the floating masses, surging and whirling in dire confusion on the storm-beaten seas, and under the shadow of almost perpetual night, jostle each other with appalling sounds and crushing force. Strange, unearthly cries seem to come up from the frozen deep; and in the dazzling gleam of the snow-blink, or the pale fitful blaze of the Aurora, monstrous shapes seem to rear themselves, which, under the steadier light of moon and stars, or in the brief glimmer of the welcome day, are revealed as marvellous mountains of diamond, ruby, emerald, topaz, aquamarine, shining in transparent lustre as they move. All nature there seems like a death-cold bride in a trance, wrapped in a veil of snow, and waiting for the sun as for a bridegroom who never comes to call her into life. And yet even there nature is instinct with life; for that cold pure water, where shells are visible full eighty fathoms down, changes its hues as you gaze into its limpid depths, and from ultramarine flashes suddenly to olive green. Examine it more closely, and you may see the cause in the myriads of marine creatures who swim, and feed, and work, and play in it, and so increase and multiply that their armies make its waves opaque that but a moment before were bright and crystal clear.

It is difficult to be uproariously merry even at any season at the North Pole. The Esquimaux are, perhaps, a cheerful, but certainly a stolid and sedate race, as though they could not easily change their faces to a smile lest they might "be struck so," as children say to each other when they squint. We may be sure that even the brave explorers, the stout hearts that followed our Arctic heroes, felt but a subdued jollity in that wild region where they seemed to be shut out, or rather shut in, from all the influences beyond the bounds of sunshine. And our bold whalers, most of whom hail from Scotland, would be loth to let New-Year's Day pass without at least some attempt at jollity. So in the act of doing so our Artist has depicted them.

THE NEW YEAR.

A VERY good business is done at this season in prophetic almanacks with pictorial frontispieces of a solemn hieroglyphic character, in which the British Lion, Louis Napoleon, the Pope of Rome, a boa-constrictor, and an individual with a resemblance to Mephistopheles and Mr. Phelps in Manfred, seem to play the most conspicuous parts.

We who do not profess to be prophetic, except in what, after all, is the prophet's highest office—that of teaching and reminding—cannot affect to foretell the occurrences of the year which has just dawned upon us; but it is our business to record its advent pictorially, nevertheless, and we do so in the conviction that it comes full of bright hope and loving promise. The dark shadows that fell around the retreating footsteps of 1866 have in great part vanished before the beams that dart from the forehead of 1867, and men hailed the advent of the bright, cheery, sparkling winter morning of the 1st of January as having about it some re-assuring influence. It is only when we consider the tremendous events which occurred in the year that has just ended that we shall be able to regard it aright. The position of half Europe is changed; the liberation of the great Italian nation has been effected; and there is now, perhaps, more hope of lasting peace than there could have been at any time under the conditions which have just been superseded in the States of Germany. The great question of Turkey and the East is one of the mysterious legacies left by the old year to the new, and none can tell what it may produce: it may be full of incalculable benefit, it may bring apparently irreparable loss; for there is Greece, there is Roumania, there are all those semi-civilised peoples, or peoples civilised in the wrong place, whose outcome from any event in which they are engaged is so utterly uncertain. It will be strange, however, if we have as little to do with foreign arrangements, and even foreign disputes, in 1867 as we had in 1866. Our home troubles were sufficient last year, though we have been brought through them with a loss far below our expectations and with less of national suffering than seemed to threaten us. The murrain amongst our cattle—the pestilence that paid so deadly a visit to the eastern part of our metropolis—the panic that threatened our national credit and shook the very foundation of our commerce—have passed away, leaving sorrowful memories, but without having fulfilled our fears. These, with the terrible famine in our great dependency in India, and those more local accidents of flood and the explosions in our mines, and that last calamity of all the year, the fire at the Crystal Palace, should teach us serious lessons, which, unless we take them to heart, may need still more bitter experiences to enforce them.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.—A War Office order, dated Jan. 1, confers the high distinction of the Victoria cross on Private Timothy O'Hea, of the first battalion (Prince Consort's Own) Rifle Brigade, for his courageous conduct on the occasion of a fire which occurred in a railway car containing ammunition, between Quebec and Montreal, on June 9 last. The sergeant in charge of the escort states that when at Danville station, on the Grand Trunk Railway, the alarm was given that the car was on fire. It was immediately disconnected; and whilst considering what was best to be done Private O'Hea took the keys from his hand, rushed to the car, opened it, and called out for water and a ladder. It is stated that it was due to his example that the fire was suppressed.

THE NEW OXFORD PROFESSOR OF ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.—The Rev. Henry Longueville Mansel, B.D., who has been nominated to the regius professorship of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford, rendered vacant by the death of the Rev. Canon Shirley, was educated at St. John's College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1819, when he took a double first. He was ordained deacon in 1844, and priest in 1845, by the Bishop of Oxford, and became fellow and tutor of his college. In 1855 he was elected Reader in Moral and Metaphysical Philosophy at Magdalen College. In 1858 he preached the Bampton Lecture, his subject being "The Limits of Religious Thought;" and was the preacher at the consecration of the Bishops of Peterborough, Tasmania, and the Niger, at Canterbury Cathedral, in 1864. He has written several works on moral and metaphysical philosophy.

A VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL.—A rather remarkable festival was held at Blennerhassett, Cumberland, on Christmas Day, upon the farm of Mr. William Lawson, son of Sir Wilfred Lawson, of Brayton. The farm is conducted upon the co-operative principle—a tithe of the profits being divided among the workers, and Mr. William Lawson and his servants are vegetarians. All the people of the district who chose to write beforehand for free tickets, or to pay 4d. on Christmas Day, were invited. Musicians were requested to take their instruments with them, and it was added, "those who like may bring their own spoons." About 1000 people attended. The farm buildings were decorated, and in the large rooms singing and dancing, and lecturing on phrenology, co-operation, vegetarianism, and physiology went forward at intervals during the day. At noon a meal of grain, fruit, and vegetables was given, which rather surprised some of the beef-eating peasantry who had assembled to take part in the festival. There were raw turnips, boiled cabbages, boiled wheat, boiled barley, shelled peas (half a ton of each of these three last named); oatmeal gruel, with chopped carrots, turnips, and cabbage in it; boiled horsebeans, boiled potatoes; salads, made of chopped carrots, turnips, cabbages, parsley, &c., over which was poured linseed boiled to a jelly. As there were no condiments of any kind, either upon the extraordinary messes or the table, and all being cold except the potatoes, it may be imagined that the guests did not sit down with much relish to their vegetarian fare. Each one had an apple and a biscuit presented on rising from the table. In the course of the afternoon Mr. Lawson's two steam-engines, called by him "Cain" and "Abel," set off with steam up and whistles screaming to lead a procession over the farm; but they did not get very far, and the procession was rather a straggling one. Good order was maintained all day, the farm servants of the establishment acting as officers, and Mr. W. Lawson himself performing the duty of special constable—a fact which was announced by placards posted up on the farm buildings, bearing the words, "William Lawson, sworn constable."

THE "FORTNIGHTLY REVIEW" AND MR. BRIGHT, M.P.

THE subjoined correspondence has this week been made public:—

To the Editor of the "Fortnightly Review."

Sir,—In an article in the *Fortnightly Review* of Nov. 1, entitled "Public Affairs," criticising the speeches of Mr. Bright, M.P., you say, "The absurd inaccuracy of some of his statements—as, for instance, that all the land of Scotland is in the hands of twelve, and of England in the hands of one hundred and fifty, proprietors—are serious blemishes in his oratory." Again, you say, "His tone too much indicates that in his heart he has adopted the French maxim, 'La propriété c'est le vol.' What other interpretation can be placed on his saying that 'the poor only are fit to legislate for the rich'?"

As these things never were spoken by Mr. Bright, and as I cannot suppose that the editor of a respectable publication has invented them for the purpose of misrepresentation, you will not be surprised that I should ask you what report of Mr. Bright's speeches you had before you when you wrote the article in question?—I am, yours, &c.,

JACOB BRIGHT.

Alderley Edge, Manchester, Nov. 29.

Sir,—I have communicated with the writer of "Public Affairs," and requested him to verify the phrases attributed to Mr. Bright. He assures me he can do so. I shall hear from him to-morrow, when I will acquaint you with what he has to say. He is a "Liberal" member of the House of Commons, and would not, I think, speak rashly. If, however, it should appear that he was wrong, you may rely upon a public and adequate acknowledgment of the mistake.—Yours faithfully,

Jacob Bright, Esq.

Sir,—I have your note of the 5th inst. After what occurred in the last Session of Parliament, I am not surprised to find that "Public Affairs" was written by a "Liberal member of the House of Commons." He states that he can verify the phrases attributed to Mr. Bright. I know that their verification is impossible, and on that ground I account for his delay.

You inform me that, if I am right, there shall be an acknowledgment of the "mistake." The offence seems to me very inadequately characterised by the term "mistake." I call it a deliberate falsification. The words on which the "Liberal member of the House of Commons" founds the charge that, in his heart, Mr. Bright has adopted the maxim, "La propriété c'est le vol," are placed between inverted commas. Inverted commas imply a literal quotation, and no honourable man will make use of them, especially when about to draw inferences intended to damage another's reputation, unless he is sure of the truth of his quotation.

As you will not desire to take upon yourself the responsibility of the "blemishes" and "wild inaccuracies" of this discreditable article, may I request you to furnish me with the name of the writer?—I am, yours truly,

John Morley, Esq.

Dear Sir,—I wish to state parenthetically that in no case should I be responsible for the mis-statements about Mr. Bright, as they appeared before I succeeded to Mr. Lewes as editor of the *Review*.

It appears that the statements to which you take exception are inaccurate. The inaccuracy shall be acknowledged in the *Review* for Jan. 1, which, as you will see, is all that I can do to repair the injustice.

I do not think the writer would object to my furnishing you with his name. He is out of town at present; but I hope to see him on Tuesday, when I will write to you, if you still think it worth while to know the writer's name.—Believe me yours very truly,

Jacob Bright, Esq.

Dear Sir,—In answer to yours of the 15th inst., I beg to observe that when a writer is engaged in fair criticism, or when he attacks, I do not care with how much severity, the views of an opponent, he has a right to the anonymous if he wish to assume it; but when he resorts to falsehood, or is guilty of carelessness so extreme that it cannot be distinguished from falsehood, then, in the interests of the public and of anonymous writers themselves, he should no longer be allowed to conceal himself. Such a writer requires to be put under restraint, otherwise anonymous slander might become general. I know of no mode of applying that restraint but by placing his name before the public in connection with his offence.

With these views, I "still think it worth while to know the writer's name," and beg that you will give it me without further delay.—Yours very truly,

John Morley, Esq.

My dear Sir,—I trust you will excuse me for reminding you of my letter of the 19th inst., to which I have not yet been favoured with a reply.—Yours very truly,

John Morley, Esq.

My dear Sir,—As I do not hear from you, I presume I am not likely to be put in communication with the writer of "Public Affairs." Being unable, therefore, to address him through the post, I must ask you to give him the inclosed letter, which I shall publish with this correspondence.—Yours very truly,

John Morley, Esq.

To the "Liberal Member of the House of Commons" who contributes to the "Fortnightly Review."

Sir,—In your article, "Public Affairs," of last November, when criticising Mr. Bright's Glasgow speech, you say, "The absurd inaccuracy of some of his statements, as, for instance, that all the land of Scotland is in the hands of twelve, and of England in the hands of one hundred and fifty, proprietors—are serious blemishes in his oratory." Mr. Bright's own statement, taken from the *Glasgow Weekly Mail*, is as follows:—"Are you aware of a fact which I saw stated the other day in an essay on this subject, that half the land of England is in the possession of fewer than one hundred and fifty men? Are you aware of the fact that half the land in Scotland is in the possession of not more than ten or twelve men?"

In another part of your article you write, "Mr. Bright says that the poor are the only people fit to legislate for the rich." Again, you say, "Mr. Bright, if left unchecked, would speedily bring on the war between those who have and those who have not. His tone, too, much indicates that in his heart he has adopted the French maxim, 'La propriété c'est le vol.' What other interpretation can be placed on his saying that 'the poor only are fit to legislate for the rich'?" Such a course as this would bring us to the bloody days of June, which is a curious climax for a member of the Society of Friends to wish for.

The passage from Mr. Bright's Glasgow speech on which you have dared to found this disgraceful attack is as follows:—"But I deny altogether that the rich alone are qualified to legislate for the poor, any more than that the poor alone would be qualified to legislate for the rich. My honest belief is, that, if we could be all called upon to legislate for all, all would be more justly treated, and would be more happy than we are now. We should have then an average; we should have the influence of wealth and of high culture, and of those qualities that come from leisure, and the influence of those robust qualities that come from industry and labour."

Now, Sir, I shall not seek for epithets wherewith to characterise your conduct in this matter. It is enough that your silence and secrecy show that you regard it as I do.

I observe that you go out of your way to make an attack on Mr. Cobden. I believe your statement is false; but as it appears to refer to unreported conversations, I am unable to convict you, as I have done in the case of my brother.

You are a "Liberal member of the House of Commons." I am at present ignorant whether you represent a free constituency (of which there are some in England) or whether you sit for a place where the electors have only the appearance of choice. If the latter, you may be less afraid of giving the public your name, as you might thereby establish an additional claim to the support of your patrons; if the former, the case would be different. Those who elected you might put inconvenient questions. In the course of your article you say the people of Glasgow "knew they had no real grievances." If that be your view, should you not take your seat on the other side of the House, among those who think that things are perfect as they are, and that change is an evil? You speak of Mr. Gladstone's Reform Bill as a "double dose of concession in granting the voting privilege," in order to compensate for its author's illiberality in other directions. And yet you know that, if that bill had passed, millions of your countrymen would still have been excluded from the franchise—a state of things now hardly to be found in any civilised country.

You have done one service to the cause of Reform, and for that I thank you. By attacking Mr. Bright through miserable inventions of your own, you have given the strongest testimony which it is possible to obtain that the speeches whose influence you would fain undermine are themselves unassailable.

I am, &c.,

JACOB BRIGHT.

Alderley Edge, Manchester, Dec. 30.

In one of the above letters Mr. Jacob Bright is promised a "public and adequate acknowledgment" of the "inaccuracies" in the "statements" made regarding Mr. Bright, M.P. The following is the acknowledgment, which appears in the January number of the *Fortnightly Review*:—

NOTE.—A complaint has been addressed to us that the writer of "Public Affairs" in a previous number of the *Review* misquoted one of Mr. Bright's speeches, in which the speaker used words to the effect that "half the land of Scotland and of England was in the hands of twelve and one hundred and fifty proprietors respectively." Instead of "half," by a clerical error we printed "all." Mr. Bright gave no authority for his statement, and the writer believes the amended version to be inaccurate, as well as that which he inadvertently printed; but he hastens to correct the error, unwittingly made, and to apologise for its commission.

To the Editor of the Times.

Sir,—Since my arrival in town this afternoon I have seen the correspondence headed "Mr. Bright and the *Fortnightly Review*," published in the *Times* of to-day, and I should be obliged if you would insert at your earliest convenience the following letter relating to it.—Yours obedient servant,

HENRY D. SEYMOUR.

P.S. I never heard of Mr. Jacob Bright's letter of Dec. 19 till Dec. 29, and I wrote my letter to Mr. Bright and sent it to the editor of the *Fortnightly Review* on Dec. 30.

Athenaeum Club, Jan. 2.

"Knolly, Salisbury, Dec. 30, 1866.

"My dear Bright.—As I am informed that your brother, Mr. Jacob Bright, has been writing to Mr. Morley, the editor of the *Fortnightly Review*, complaining of an inaccuracy in an article in which one of your speeches was misquoted, and requiring to know the author's name, I write this letter to inform you that I wrote that portion of the article which relates to English affairs, and in which the error complained of was made. I am always prepared to accept the responsibility of what I write, and, had you expressed a wish to know the name of the writer of the article in question, no doubt Mr. Morley would, after consultation with me, have sent it to you without delay. As Mr. Jacob Bright had no kind of right to ask for it, I think Mr. Morley acted properly in refusing it. I don't know whether you yourself ever saw the article in question, and I will, therefore, mention that it is the 'Public Affairs' article of Nov. 1. An apology has been inserted in the January number of the *Review*, and I have directed a number of it to be sent to you at the Reform Club. I beg again to apologise for the mistake and to assure you that you were not intentionally misquoted. At the same time, I must say that I believe your statement that half the land in England and Scotland is in the hands of 150 and 12 proprietors respectively is incorrect; but, as you give no authority for so important a declaration, it is impossible to point out where the error lies. That there should have been any mistake I deeply regret, although it did not affect my argument. I am one of the many members of the Liberal party, who, admiring your oratorical genius and fully admitting the public benefits which you have in many respects conferred upon the country during your long career, must respectfully beg to differ from you as to the sudden and sweeping changes which, to judge from your speeches, you would wish to introduce into our laws and Constitution.

"Earnestly hoping that you may so temper your acts and speeches as to render it possible for moderate men to agree with and support you, I remain, yours truly,

"HENRY D. SEYMOUR."

"J. Bright, Esq."

THE FRENCH BISHOPS AND THE PAPACY.

NINETEEN of the French Bishops have, down to the present date, addressed pastoral letters to their clergy on the dangers which, according to them, are impending over the Holy See. Some of these are long and diffuse, and, as the writers treat the same subject, they occasionally repeat each other. The Bishop of Séz, for instance, thinks that the war now wages against the Papacy is directed against the Church itself; and his venerable brother of Cahors is exactly of the same mind, and expresses it in nearly the same terms. The Bishop of Périgueux declares that during the last seven years he has never felt more disquiet and alarm than now; while the Bishop of Agen exults in the incomparable grandeur of this pacific and unnamed Royalty—the Papacy—"amid the fever of murderous inventions which agitates Europe and presages that force threatens to become the law of the world." The Bishop of Autun already hears the triumphant shouts of Revolution ringing on all sides. The pastoral of the Bishop of Perpignan is longer than those of his venerable colleagues, and he goes a little out of the beaten track to refute a false application of the principle of nationalities:—

"People talk of a plebiscite and of annexation. They may save themselves the trouble. We have already the suffrages of 200 millions of consciences. If, however, a certain number of citizens of the Pontifical States cannot endure the glory of being governed by the Holy Father, they will doubtless be generous enough to sacrifice their personal views to the general good; and, since it seems to them so advantageous to be able to exercise political rights, let them shake the dust from their feet, give up their honourable nationality, and seek an asylum among a people more worthy of them. We hear much talk about principles; but there is one which has never been called in question—viz., that the sacred interest of all should be preferred to the interests of a few. But, no; the true Romans will not have to quit the Eternal City. Plus IX. is loved and blessed there. Let them send away from the Holy City, not its real citizens, but the delegates of demagogues, the turbulent spirits, the wearers of poniards, the ambitious, restless, and turbulent enemies of all order, and Rome will at once enjoy the benefits of tranquillity. . . . We do not comprehend the complaints of Italy. Has she not a sufficient share in the Pontifical Government? The Head of the Church is one of her own sons. The august Senate who elect him dwell, the greater part of them, under her beautiful sky; and the Congregations who share the solicitude of the Sovereign Pontiff in the administration of the Catholic world are composed of Italian Prelates. The whole Church receives especially from Italy and by Italy the religious impulse which makes her social life, and thus it may be said that Italy reigns over the city and over the world; and yet Italy complains! Does she not fear that, tired out by her unfounded lamentations, the Catholic nations may, in their turn, cry out against her privileges, and require to be more largely represented in the capital of souls, in order not to be forced to subscribe to the demands and the preferences of the children of Italy?"

The Bishop of Coutances says that when, twelve years ago, the dogma of the immaculate conception was proclaimed, there was reason to believe that the protection of the Mother of God would ensure to the earth a long period of repose. That hope has been disappointed, and Providence reserved for mankind fresh trials, which they are now enduring:—

Alas! the aspirations of man have been vain. God, who, it was believed, was coming nearer to us, is hidden from us more and more; and the days of joy we then hoped for have not yet risen, but are rather changed into days of anguish. We cast our eyes over the map of the world, but we look in vain for the felicity which we so much needed—that felicity of which the proclamation of the immaculate conception seemed to us as the happy augury. On whatever side we turned our gaze, in Europe, in America, everywhere, we beheld wars, murderous battles, bloody conflicts, fratricidal struggles between Christian nations, and even between people of the same race. Everywhere we find passions roused to the highest pitch; the Revolution seeking to destroy all, to dominate over all—everywhere the disregard or the persecution of religion, and of the most elementary principles of natural law; everywhere disorder, ruin of the past, and menaces pregnant with danger for the future.

The pastoral concludes with a historical sketch of the rise and growth of the temporal power.

The Bishop of Annecy also gives a history of the temporal Papacy. The pith of the pastoral of the Bishop of Nancy is that those who have forgotten the Divine promises are the only persons who predict the ruin of the Papacy.

The Bishop of Nevers believes that "the word of France is equal in power to her flag;" and, after quoting some passages from the Pontifical allocutions, he recommends the faithful to refrain from recriminations, "however just they appear to them to be."

The pastoral of the Bishop of Valence is pacific.

The Bishop of Frejus compares the present crisis to the trials which beset Job:—

As in the time of Job, God may allow the Prince of Darkness to ravage for a time the heritage of His servants. It is thus that He makes their glory brighter by multiplying their merits. But later He restores to them more than the good they have lost; and Satan returns to his abyss, vanquished by the upright, just, firm, and patient sufferer who has not wavered in his trials. It is especially in the days of tribulation (says the Psalmist) that the Lord is with us, that He hears our prayers and sends us succour. It is then that He delivers the just man and glorifies him.

After giving a portrait of Pius IX., "whose calm figure soars in serene majesty above the stormy and tortured epoch," the Bishop of Pamiers thus alludes to the Pontifical allocutions:—

The advanced sentinel of the camp of the Lord, ever watchful, never silent whatever the peril that encompasses him, he has just torn from the revolution its last mask; he reminds the monarchs and the judges of the land of the formidable judgments of the living God; and once more brands with all the authority of his decrees, with all the energy of his apostolic courage, the acts of the most powerful Potentate. This is a monument added to so many others of the incomparable real which nothing arrests when the sacred and civilising principles of justice and truth are to be proclaimed.

One of the most recent in date is the pastoral of the Bishop of Amiens; but it is little more than a recital of the farewell speech of the Pope to the French army.

The confidence of the Bishop of Vannes reposes not only on God, but also on man, for he appends to his pastoral the letters of Generals de Cissé and Lauriston calling for volunteers to fill up the vacancies in the Franco-Roman Legion, and to increase its effective strength. These have been already given.

The Bishop of Limoges sees the finger of Providence in the arrest of the revolutionary movement the consummation of which might be foreseen some years ago; and he dwells on the hesitation of many among the enemies of the Papacy. But he asks whether this delay should not be considered as a calculation on the part of political men.

Both in substance and in form the pastoral of Monseigneur de Dreux Brezé, Bishop of Moulins, is perhaps the most original. He says:—

Yet a week, and this year of 1866, of which we are exhausting the dregs, will have passed into the abyss with the many that have gone before. It has been a year more culpable, perhaps, than those which preceded it, and visibly more visited by calamity, and, above all, more full of the germs of future chastisements. In this strange situation, which the perfidiousness of some, the fears of others, and, perhaps, a loyalty more confiding have created for the apostolic chair, the piety that would know all combats against the respect which dares not demand anything, and is forced to divine that into which it is not permitted to us to inquire. We know, at all events, that the Holy Father will not leave the tomb of the Apostles but to save, far from their relics, abandoned for awhile to persecutors, the sacred liberty of their ministry. Far be it from me to wish to anticipate or to divine the future; but if the office of prophet has its difficulties, that of dupe is still harder. And since many among the faithful anxiously seek information from you as to the trials in store for the Church, content yourselves with referring them to their recollections; at the same time pray that so many lessons may be instructive to them.

The Bishop of Marseilles is of opinion that "long discourses are now unnecessary." He contents himself with offering an asylum to the Pope in the city of Marseilles, and addresses his Holiness thus:—

You have millions of sons who, in this shipwreck, would consider it as their greatest happiness to lay at your feet their fortunes and their persons. But a Bishop of Marseilles may be permitted to claim by preference, in his people's name and in his own, that glorious privilege. It is a privilege which none can dispute; for you, Holy Father, wrote some years ago to one of my venerated predecessors these words which still live in the hearts of the people of Marseilles, and which your misfortunes make still more precious. "The zeal of their fathers for religion has not cooled in the hearts of the Marseillais, as proved by the numerous works of Christian charity and the religious establishments which in that city are flourishing and prosperous. Lately, when a terrible tempest swept over Italy, and particularly over our city of Rome, the ecclesiastics, forced to fly, were received in Marseilles with the most generous hospitality; and we ourselves, if Divine Providence, whose designs are inscrutable for the human mind, had not disposed otherwise, forcibly driven from our capital, would have willingly sought an asylum in the city of Marseilles."

This letter, it may be remembered, was addressed by the Pope, in April, 1851, to the then Bishop of Marseilles.

The Archbishops of Besançon and Aix tell their clergy and their flocks that they have prayed and caused others to pray for years back, and they now declare that these prayers should be more humble and more earnest than ever. Their pastorals are very short.

A BISHOP HISSED IN A CATHEDRAL.—The *Gazette of Treviso* of the 26th of December contains the following:—"Yesterday morning Bishop Zinelli went to the cathedral to celebrate Christmas Day, and to address the people. There was an immense crowd present. When Monsignore alluded in his address to the persecutions of which the head of the Church has been the object on the part of the Italian people and a portion of the clergy, there arose very significant murmurs, then hisses, and lastly vociferations. The speaker said that he was speaking from the pulpit of truth, and that the house of God ought to be respected. If that were not done, he added, it would be better for the evil disposed to retire. The murmurs were such that the preacher had to bring his discourse to a conclusion by giving the blessing. Some disorder took place in the church, and several persons were bruised. The people afterwards collected at the side-door, through which it was thought the Bishop would pass. The Royal Carabinieri and the police had great difficulty in dispersing the crowd. The Bishop got safe and sound into his palace, accompanied by hisse and hootings. In the course of the evening the people again collected in the neighbourhood of the Bishop's palace. Some windows were broken. The corporation of Treviso, in consequence of these events, issued the following proclamation:—"Citizens, excited demonstrations made on even justifiable grounds in the public streets may easily overstep the limits consistent with national dignity and what is allowed by law. In the assemblage of yesterday good sense and perseverance succeeded in calming the minds of the people and in preventing fresh disorders from breaking out. Citizens, let us show by deeds that we are worthy of the liberty which we have acquired at the cost of so many sacrifices."

THE NEW LAW ON RAILWAY COMPANIES.—During the present month the Act passed in the late Session to amend the law relating to securities issued by railway companies will practically come into force. Half-yearly accounts are to be filed, and on or before the 15th inst. every railway company is to have a registered officer, whose name is to be entered at the office of the Registrar of Joint-Stock Companies. Within fourteen days of each half-year—the first half year ending on Monday last—every railway company is to make an account of its loan capital authorised to be raised and actually raised up to the end of the half year, and the same may be perused without payment by any shareholder, stockholder, mortgagee, bond creditor, or holder of debenture stock of the company, or any person interested in any mortgage, bond, or debenture stock of the company. Within twenty-one days of the end of each half year the account is to be filed with the Registrar of Joint-Stock Companies. No company is to borrow money or issue debenture stock unless it has deposited the required account. If at any time any railway company fail to register or keep registered the name of its secretary, accountant, treasurer, or chief cashier, or to deposit with the Registrar of Joint-Stock Companies in England within the time required by the Act such a copy of the loan capital account, or borrow any money on mortgage or bond, or issue any debenture share, without having first deposited with the registrar, to be guilty of an offence, and for every such offence, on summary conviction, to be liable to a penalty of £20, and £5 a day during which the same continues after the first day on which the penalty is incurred. Further, the Act declares that if any director, or registered officer of a company, signs any declaration, account, or statement under this Act, knowing the same to be false in any particular, he is to be deemed guilty of an offence. "If any director or officer of a railway company is guilty of an offence against this Act, he shall be liable, on conviction thereof on indictment, to fine or imprisonment, or, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding £10." An account, statement, or declaration under the Act is not to be admissible as evidence in favour of a railway company of the truth of the matter therein stated. Full particulars are to be given in the accounts to be filed of the half-yearly conditions of every railway company, and to be opened for inspection in the manner described.

THE LONDON CASUAL WARDS.—The authorities of the Poor-Law Board are investigating privately the circumstances narrated in our last week's Number, showing how the applicants at the Clerkenwell casual ward were refused the relief to which they were entitled. The police authorities, too, are making an investigation of the same affair, as it is the duty of the police to report all such cases of refusal to their superiors. Inquiry has proved that the cases mentioned are by no means isolated infractions of the law at these wards—infractions by which houseless wretches have been compelled to wander from parish to parish in search of shelter and food. On Saturday night last a wretched-looking man went to the district police station with the tale that he had made application at Clerkenwell casual wards for relief and had been told he could not be admitted. He was lingering about the door when the officer in charge, he stated, seized hold of him and roughly expelled him from the dark forecourt of the premises, and the statement was corroborated by the marks of ill-usage he bore. The inspector on duty sent a constable to the wards with the man, who was thereupon admitted. The only reason for this cruelty that can be assigned is that the officers have a desire "to keep the numbers down," as the guardians, it is supposed, look with satisfaction upon decreased numbers, however obtained. The guardians of the neighbouring parish of Holborn have erected excellent wards; and inspections of them at different times show that the officers know the law under which they act, and carry it out with firmness and humanity. The needless cruelty practised at many places of keeping the half-clad wretches who claim shelter waiting in the cold does not exist here, and the work test is exacted for the lodging and relief. There is no order to shut out visitors to the wards, as is given at Clerkenwell; and the fact that the guardians and officers do their duty at the Holborn wards can be proved by anyone. All that is wanted to make the Holborn system of relief perfect is the plan of leaving the police to deal with the applicants for relief. The place where the Houseless Poor Act is best seen in operation is Marylebone. The guardians here, as a body, had little faith in the Act; but they adopted it, and the result has proved highly satisfactory. No applicant whatever is refused admission by the workhouse officials, and yet the numbers have been this year about 400 a week as compared with upwards of 1000 last year, being now less than half. One reason of this is that, at Marylebone, all the casuals have to apply to the police; and the idle and regular vagrant will not face the ordeal, but go to the City, where the guardians, afraid of "centralisation," will not adopt the police system, and so are overrun with the classes who will not work. It is not too much to say that the system pursued at Marylebone, and carried out by Mr. Douglas, has relieved the London streets of an immense mass of pauperism. The officers of the casual ward of this workhouse have orders to admit any respectable person to view the wards at any time; and this is a guarantee that the law is properly administered.

Literature.

The Reign of Law. By the Duke of ARGYLL. London: Alexander Strahan.

We do not mind saying we like this book beyond anything we have read for a longer period than we care to name, always qualifying our approbation by the old Highland reservation, "Tho' it be by a Campbell." We live in an age when much is said of a "bloated aristocracy;" effete, effeminate, tenth transmitters of foolish faces, whose minds are only fitted for, and seem filled with, the small elegances of life, including of course horses, dogs, and deer. The mental capacity of some members at least of this class is sufficiently exhibited in the Upper and Lower Houses, while its culture, and occasionally genius, are amply vindicated in poetry, politics, and historic writing. But, in the higher walks of science, his Grace of Inverary leaves, as it were, his class, and takes his stand among the few upon earth who are properly called "thinkers"—not a thinker of deep things, but a deep thinker of common things. His Grace is said to be ambitious; but if his bethe ambition of "opening the gates of thought" to a knowledge of the dust of which we are made, the earth on which we live, and each living thing therein; the laws and forces which it, and they, and we exhibit at work in and around us, as well as the laws, and forces, and motives which actuate the mind and soul, including all that is

In the round ocean, and in the living air,
And the blue sky, and in the mind of man;—

if this ambition be a weakness, it is at least a rare one among dukes; and we agree with Mr. Darwin's "Theory of the Development of Species" to the extent that we grant the present Campbell to be developed beyond most of his race or name heretofore. In this volume we recognise the intellect which indicated its latent light in Sir William Hamilton's class-room some twenty years ago, developed and setting forth its own convictions; showing where and why and how it does or does not agree with M. Guizot, John Stuart Mill, Professor Tyndall, Dr. Bushnell, Professor Owen, Dr. James McCosh, Professor Tulloch, Dr. Whewell, Professor Huxley, Dr. H. W. Aukland, Mr. Lewes, the famous Darwin, and a score of other writers of note. This is done in a manner so simple and lucid, though logical and metaphysical, that the ordinary reader cannot help thinking that he himself sees men and things in a manner which somehow never occurred to him before. Portions of this work were addressed to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, or appeared in the *Edinburgh Review* or *Good Words*. "The deep interest in the matter dealt with," says the author, "has induced me to expand them, to add new chapters on other aspects of the same subject, and to publish the whole in a connected form." We regret that the author's intention of concluding with a chapter on "Law in Christian Theology" is for the present deferred. "The Reign of Law in Nature," "Creation by Law," "Law in the Realm of Mind," "Law in Politics," "The apparent exceptions to the Supremacy of Purpose," and "The Supernatural," form the headings of the chapters here given. Rationalism and Materialism will not like the manner in which the common idea of a "miracle" being the suspension or violation of the laws of nature is treated, nor the relation in which "prayer" stands to the fixity of natural laws in the realm of matter and mind.

Hobson's Choice. A Story. By DUTTON COOK, Author of "Sir Felix Foy, Bart.," &c. London: Sampson Low and Co.

Mr. Dutton Cook's new story has already delighted thousands of readers in magazine pages, and well deserves its present honourable form. It is a story of character rather than of incident, and will make pleasant reading for those who are fond of pleasant society. There is only one volume of it, and there is no tangible story until the middle of that; but the style is light and cheerful, and the pages get turned over quickly. There are just a few chapters of Lincoln's-inn life, amongst briefless bachelor barristers, but the scene is generally at Beachville, of course on the coast; and Mr. Cook makes very good gossip out of it, although almost every writer has already worked the seaside watering-place to death. The half-dozen or more characters flitting to and fro are well worth an introduction and acquaintance. They are all distinctive, tolerably lifelike, generally worthy people enough; but nothing deeper in tone than average people may be next door. The spinster aunt is nice—nice is the only word; and the way in which she is tricked by her heartless and fascinating niece is a thing to be lamented, were it impossible not to laugh. But this part of the story is so well preserved in secret that it would be unfair to give it. The young men, who turn out at thirty-five years so honest and sensible, and so different from what people imagine them, are no less good society; and their marriages, which are anything but brilliant, do great honour to their heads and hearts. It is something to have three or four marriages amongst persons whom we seem to know, and unaccompanied by any nerve-straining or tremendous effects, all in the space of one volume; and, therefore, "Hobson's Choice" will be found a capital story for just one evening. Since we last met with Mr. Dutton Cooke, in company with "Paul Foster's Daughter," he has contracted one or two habits of expression which should be avoided. Everything is "quite"—"quite a crowd"—"quite a family dinner," and so forth. And what does the Rev. Mr. Barlow, a peer's nephew and a great man at Cambridge, mean by saying, "I shall not return to Beachville very immediately"? But he is not worse than some of the others. Can it be intended for humour?

Emblems, Divine and Moral; The School of the Heart; and Hieroglyphics of the Life of Man. By FRANCIS QUARLES. A New Edition; with a Sketch of the Life and Times of the Author. London: William Tegg.

This reissue—not as "new as it looks" to the uninitiated in publishing mysteries—is a handsome book; but Quarles is a doleful sort of thing for a Christmas present, except to a very sick, bedridden, or monomaniacal person. The one thing he does not believe in is "cakes and ale." Not content with saying that this mortal life is without significance unless we believe in a future and a better life; that every act of our present career has, whether we will or no, a reference to another career; and that he is an irreligious man who does not live in the light of this idea, Quarles belongs, we need not say, to the school of which we will offhand christen afresh as the Metaphysico-religious Flagellants. This life, in their view, is not only "vain," without another; it is vain because there is another. Every pleasure is a snare; the joy of the warrior and the joy of the lover; the sword is naught, and the myrtle around the sword. We have no sympathy with this view of life. The pleasures of existence do, indeed, speak to us of greater pleasures still; only not because the cup of human joy is so empty, but because it is so full. That which so often runs over must be fed from infinite fountains. That which makes our breasts and souls so yearn and burn within us must be taken as a hint of something better and greater behind the folded curtain. This view of the subject, indeed, constantly discloses itself, even in Quarles. For whence does he import the charm and, often, the great beauty and force of his emblems, but from the most impassioned of human experiences? His pictures, with their odd, crude naïveté, are full of passion, which would be totally absurd if there were nothing worth striving for in human life. We believe the tendency of books like Quarles's Emblems to be, in ordinary minds, not towards unworldliness, but towards other-worldliness. To well-read, sympathetic, imaginative readers Quarles will always have attractions of his own; but to them it is unnecessary to recommend him. If, however, the offensive preaching advertisement with its extract from an idiotic "reverend" about the utter baseness of human nature were removed, this would make a good child's book. Children all love Quarles, as they love Bunyan. They are too innocent to be able to taste the bitter (and stupid) dregs of the man's thought; but they love the pictures—and well they may. The hand which drew them did it with an unconfessed joy in natural, human beauty; and was a good deal better than its false, foolish, sordid creed.

Half-hours with the best Letter-writers and Autobiographers. Forming a Collection of Memoirs and Anecdotes of Eminent Persons. By CHARLES KNIGHT. London: George Routledge and Sons.

It would be difficult to find a present-book which better combines than this the maximum of worth with the minimum of show. The book has nothing to do with Mr. Knight's former "Half-hours." It is quite distinct and on another plan, and the popular title alone is imitated. Let us see what the new system is like. There are one hundred "half-hours" in all, and each chapter contains many, all of which make up one general subject. Thus, chapter six relates to Mrs. Delany and Miss Burney. Various sources are searched for a paper on "Court Life Eighty Years Ago," and Mr. Knight supplies connecting passages for his extracts. Then follow Miss Burney's amusing passages from the "Diary," concerning the Court equestrian, and that miserable old Mrs. Schwellenberg, the Mistress of the Robes. The reader's attention is next taken with the correspondence of Crisp and Miss Burney, and her introduction to Burke; and the chapter concludes with a description of Court life at Brighton in 1787, extracted from Dr. Campbell's "Diary." The effect of this plan is—in miniature—like turning over many books in a splendid library, but without the trouble. All the subjects, of which there are eighteen, can scarcely hope to make themselves so interesting as the one described. The strange mixture of literature and state, of perfect ease and of perfect stiffness, so different from our own time, and yet removed from it so little, make up a fascinating scene. In the present day manners are much improved; but literature and state are not much in the habit of meeting. Amongst others, Mr. Knight gives chapters on Howell's letters from Spain, &c., in connection with the contemplated marriage of Charles, Prince of Wales; the friendship of Gray, West, and Walpole; Horace Walpole and the Miss Berrys; Shenstone (not peculiarly interesting); Sterne, in which he takes a more lenient view than Thackeray; and, of course, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. Such historical and biographical sketches form reading which must be delightful to the young, and of real substantial value to thousands of busy men and women whose little leisure is at the mercy of mere circulating libraries, and to whom the British Museum is about as accessible as the Pyramids.

The Draytons and the Davenants. A Story of the Civil Wars. By the Author of "Chronicles of the Schönberg-Cotta Family," &c. London: T. Nelson and Sons.

We should recommend people "grown up," in literature or in body, not to touch "The Draytons and the Davenants," but to leave it for their serious young people who do not object to combine instruction with amusement. Not, by-the-way, that they will find much of the amusing element in the book, but there is some interest of a social as well as historical kind. The story is built upon the great civil war, and what led to it, from about 1638 to the death of Charles, and it is told in a series of extracts from diaries or recollections of two young ladies. At Netherby there is the Drayton family, rather reduced, and all for Hampden, and Cromwell, and the Parliament; and next to them the great family of the Davenants, all for Strafford, Laud, and the King. Miss Olive of the one house, and Miss Lettice of the other, hear the news and report it on the spot. And as, despite their opposite politics, the families are very good friends, we may be sure that a little lovmaking, for good or for evil, takes place. But yet of story there is scarcely any. However, there is the outline of history in large quantities; and the attempt to give it a contemporaneous air is sometimes not unsuccessful. But then, when it is not unsuccessful the quaintness of style is tedious; and when it is unsuccessful it is dull in a different way. There is a great deal too much of it. People would never go to such a book for history, and the actual story is almost nil. The ultra-Puritanism of Aunt Dorothy is very well described, and the liberal political spirit of the Roundhead and Cavalier family makes an agreeable picture, and also figures somewhat in the way of a surprise. "The Draytons and the Davenants" may answer the good end of giving young readers an idea of the time; although the substitution of *him* for *he*, and such a phrase as "Every garrison and castle in the kingdom have surrendered," will probably be looked upon as fanciful pictures of the period. But, although the book is produced very handsomely, we are sure that it does not deserve the treatment which some gift-books do deserve—namely, the dubious courtesy shown to the mouth of the gift-horse, a thing not to be looked into.

Social Reform in England. By LUCIEN DAVESIES DE PONTES. Translated by the Widow of the Author. With Appendices by the Translator. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

This book consists of a translation of a series of papers, some of which appeared originally in the *Revue des Mondes*, and all of which have passed through two French editions, in a collected form, under the title of "Etudes sur l'Angleterre." The translator has done two pieces of good work in preparing this edition—she has piously aided in raising an honourable monument to her husband's memory, and in diffusing information on subjects the thorough ventilation of which he had greatly at heart. For both we thank her, and can assure our readers that they will find much really valuable information here collected. The matters treated of—such as the history and treatment of criminals and paupers—are not always particularly agreeable; but, pleasant or not, they are topics that demand and must receive attention. M. de Pontes appears to have studied his several themes with care; and, although somewhat amateurish in his style, and a little too Social-Science-Associationish in the tone of his thought, his book may be conned with profit by all who take an interest in the subjects of which it treats.

Simple Truth, Spoken to Simple People. By NORMAN McLEOD, D.D., one of her Majesty's Chaplains. London: Alexander Strahan.

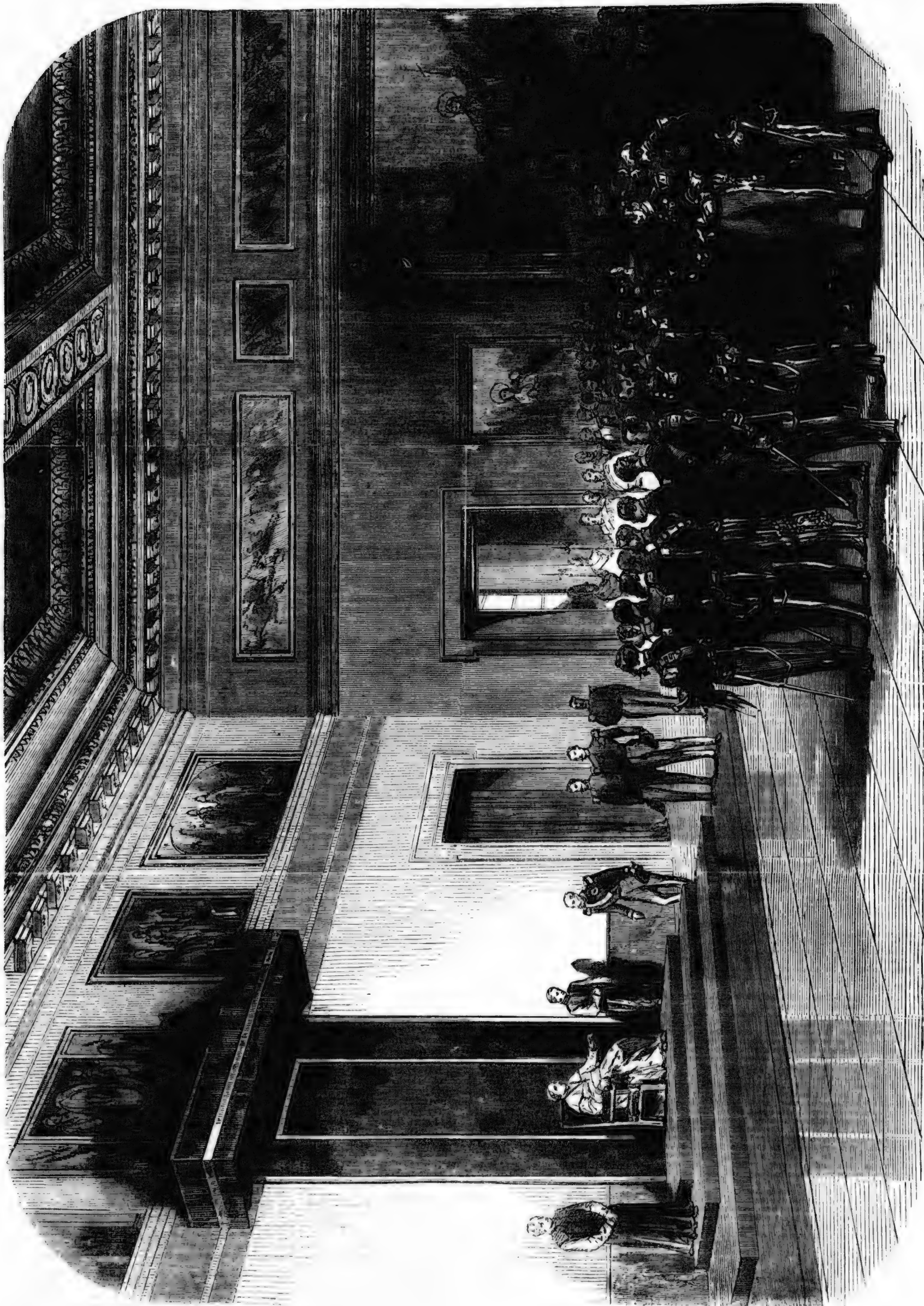
We like to hear of simple truth being spoken to the working people of Glasgow by her Majesty's Chaplain and friend, and this the more because we have heard this preacher denounced from the Scottish pulpit and press as "to be pitied," because of his large views—"too large," they said—concerning the Jewish Sabbath. The semblance of innovation in the temple, the sick-room, or the corn-field was resented by well-meaning people in the days when Dr. McLeod's Master walked this earth. We cannot but commend the Christian charitable spirit that pervades these addresses, especially those on the "Principles of Christian Toleration" and on "Prayer." We do not profess to quote sermons, and far less parts of them. The charge of levity and irreverence in holy things made against this "innovator," who is sinful enough to love the strains of the pibroch at a proper time in a proper place—and, more, has courage enough to confess to this wickedness—is contradicted by the devout but enlightened strain in which this "son of the Gael" appeals by simple truths to simple hearers in choice Ossianic sublimity.

Wives and Daughters. An Everyday Story. By Mrs. GASKELL. A New Edition. With Five Illustrations. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

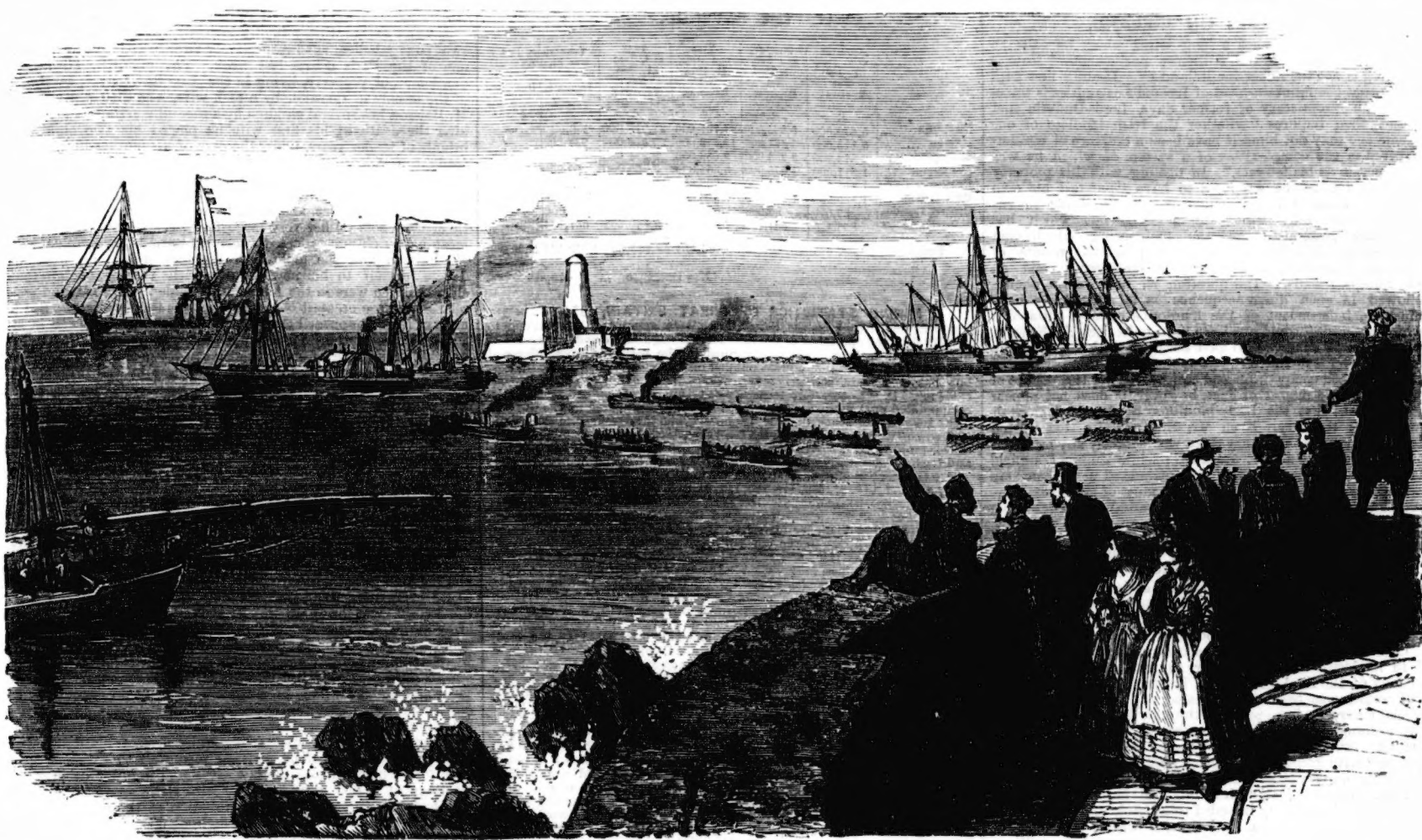
We hail with pleasure this new, cheap, and handsome edition of "Wives and Daughters," a story which we feel, more than ever, after a second run through it, is not only Mrs. Gaskell's best work, but one of the most natural, pleasant, and wholesome tales of domestic life in the whole range of English literature. Under its present form, we are sure it will have a large circulation.

The Treasure Book of Devotional Reading. Edited by BENJAMIN ORME, M.A. London: Alexander Strahan.

This is a very elegantly got-up volume of extracts from the writings of the best authors—English and foreign, ancient and modern—who have treated of devotional subjects. As many of these extracts are from the works of some of the strongest, clearest, and most devoutly-minded men that ever lived, the reader has not only placed before him pure, lofty, and holy thoughts, but such thoughts clothed in the finest language. Altogether, a most useful book, and one which may be cordially recommended for reading in serious—and, indeed, in all—circles.



GENERAL MONTEBELLO AND THE OFFICERS OF THE FRENCH GARRISON TAKING LEAVE OF THE POPE ON THE EVACUATION OF ROME.



THE EVACUATION OF ROME: EMBARKATION OF FRENCH TROOPS OF THE LINE ON BOARD THE INTREPID, AT CIVITA VECCHIA.

THE DEPARTURE OF FRENCH TROOPS FROM ROME.

THE very last French soldier has now left the Eternal City, after having seen the final packing up and transport of the very last of the military baggage. It is wonderful how those bright, little, gay Paris-loving warriors could have existed so long in the great dull capital which they garrisoned; and yet more wonderful how many people will regret their departure on personal grounds, for they had made many friends, and Rome will be *triste* to many a dark, flashing Italian girl for some time to come. That farewell of the Pope to General Montebello was a solemn one to the men who, though they were French soldiers, were Roman Catholics by tradition and profession; and the very weakness and worldly necessity of the Pontiff gave his message, which had in it a shade of denunciation, a solemn meaning. Had his words failed to affect that audience, then, indeed, the days of the Papacy would have been numbered, its power gone, and Ichabod might have been written on the walls of the Vatican.

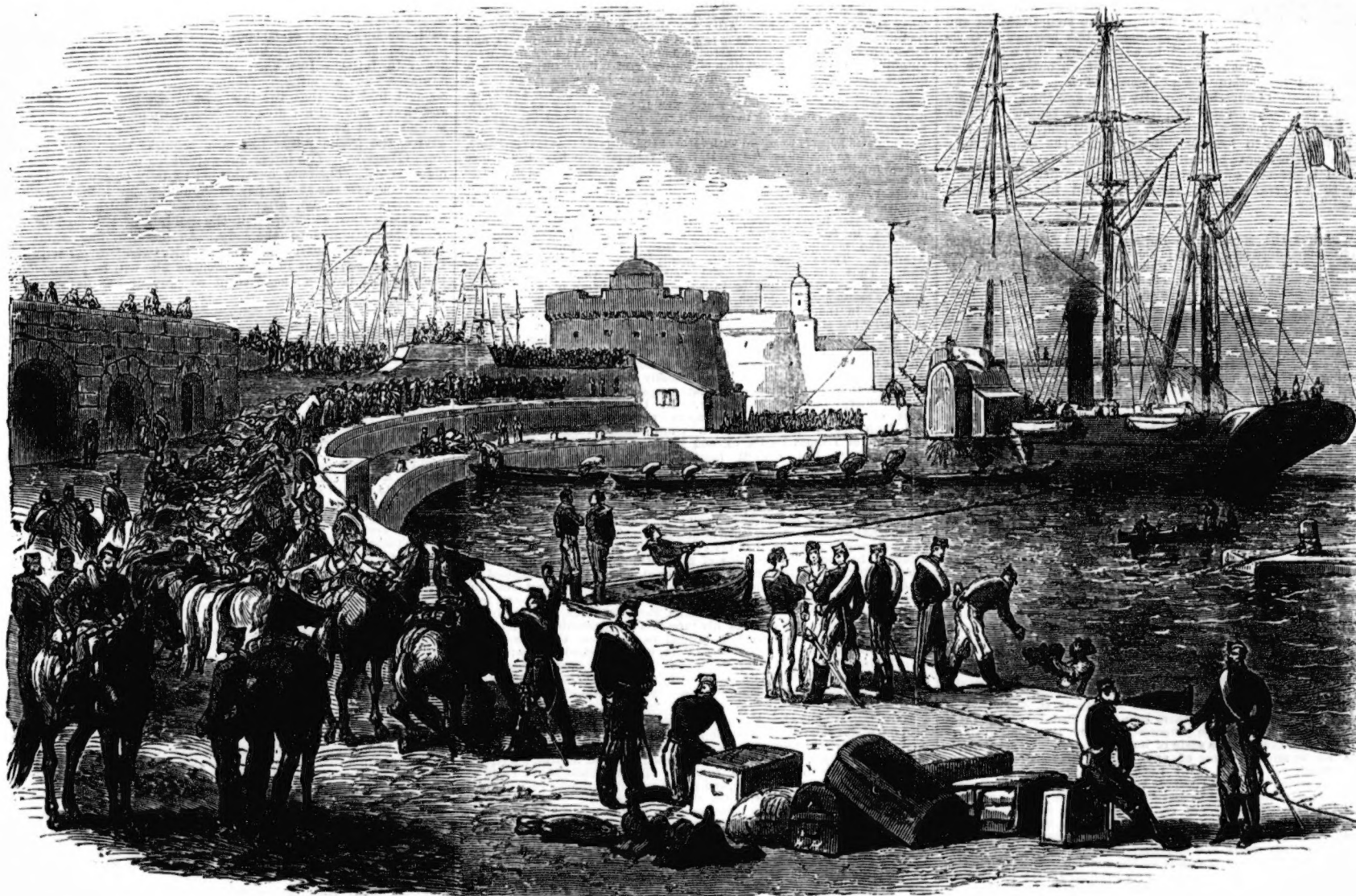
L'Opinion says that the presence of the French in Rome was the "principal reason why the Pope and Italy could not be reconciled, and that peace has now become possible. As long as the French remained in Rome the Pope and Italy could not come to an under-

standing, because their protection enabled the Pope to dispense with providing for the necessities of the civil Government, which he persists in considering the best guarantee of his spiritual independence. Peace will be brought about now, because the continual contact of two Powers which have nothing irreconcilable in themselves, and the necessity every moment which will oblige them to recognise each other, treat with each other, and mutually esteem each other, will slowly remove those obstacles which now seem insuperable. It is not a thing which will come in a moment, but it is one which will infallibly come."

At all events, the last company of the army of occupation has left Civita Vecchia on board the vessels which lay there in the port; and the departure of the familiar uniforms has been regarded with very mingled emotions by various conditions of people as they watched the embarkation of the horses of the two squadrons of hussars on board the *Gomer*, and saw the boats filled with the little lines-men who were to be packed on board the *Intrepid*. We have already recorded how silently and unostentatiously the troops left St. Angelo for the railway. They reached the fortified seaport where they were to embark with equal quietude.

It is a picturesque, straight-streeted, unhealthy place, this Civita Vecchia, with an ancient history and little else to recommend it as a

town, although Consuls from most of the great European States reside in it, and steam communication connects it with the whole southern and eastern world. It was the old *Portus Trajanus*, was captured by Totila, and retaken by Narses in 553, and since that period has been frequently taken and destroyed only to be rebuilt by the conquerors. It was made a free port by Pope Clement XII.; its fortress was begun in 1512 by Julius II., from designs by Michael Angelo, and finished by Paul III. The walls of the town were built in 1590 by Urban VII.; but the place is quite incapable of defence, and there are or were more convicts than inhabitants. The port itself, however, which owes its origin to the Emperor Trajan, is perhaps the best in what were recently called the Papal dominions. The basin is round, and is justly esteemed a *chef-d'œuvre*. The harbour is formed by two large moles; and a breakwater outside, constructed on a similar plan to that of Plymouth, protects the shipping from the heavy sea brought in by the western gales. On its southern end a lighthouse has been erected, with a lantern 74 ft. above the sea level. There is a depth of water for ships of 400 or 500 tons, and vessels of greater draught may anchor inside the breakwater. Our Engravings represent the embarkation of the hussars and the line regiments on board the vessels awaiting them in the port.



FRENCH HUSSARS EMBARKING ON BOARD THE GOMER, AT CIVITA VECCHIA.

LORD DUFFERIN ON IRELAND.

LORD DUFFERIN has published a long letter which he calls an answer to the question put to the Kilkenny parliament—"How is it that the King is not the richer for Ireland?" Dealing first with the statement that the fountain-head of Ireland's calamities is traceable to the Irish proprietary of former days, Lord Dufferin first suggests and then inquires "whether the Irish landlord of one hundred years ago may not himself have been a creature of circumstance, involved in the complexities of a system of which he was as much the victim as his tenants." In dealing with his property the Irish landlord must be supposed to have "pursued his own advantage with more or less intelligence, and in doing so exercised a right not only legitimate in itself, but which has been universally recognised as the mainspring of human progress. But it is objected that the practical results of his proceedings have been over-population, rack-rents, and an exodus of 2,000,000 souls. The question is, have these phenomena followed in such direct sequence as is alleged, or have other influences, independent of the landlord's agency, vitiated a system which otherwise would not have been unhealthy? Now, of the three evils he is supposed to have occasioned, the two last are the direct consequences of the first. A rack-rent is the product of competition, and both competition and emigration are the results of over population. As a matter of fact, however, it does not appear (says Lord Dufferin) that the Irish landlords of former days dealt harshly with their tenantry. Even Mr. Butt admits that during the whole of the eighteenth century there was scarcely any evictions and that long leases were almost universal; while Judge Longfield states that so late as 1835 there was very little land in the southern and western counties not on lease, and that most of the leases were all in the tenant's favour. Nor are even the middle-men deserving of all the abuse which has been heaped upon them; for they, too, were rather the exponents than the cause of the people's misery." Lord Dufferin, then addressing himself directly to the solution of the question why "the King is none the richer for Ireland," finds the answer in the commercial jealousies of Great Britain. "From Queen Elizabeth's reign until the Union the various commercial confraternities of Great Britain never for a moment," he says, "relaxed their relentless grip on the trades of Ireland. One by one, each of our nascent industries was either strangled in its birth, or handed over, gagged and bound, to the jealous custody of the rival interest in England, until at last every fountain of wealth was hermetically sealed, and even the traditions of commercial enterprise have perished through desuetude." Having quoted the enactments against the exports of Irish cattle, wool, hides, &c., he asks, "What has been the consequence of such a system, pursued with relentless pertinacity for 250 years? This—that, debarred from every other trade and industry, the entire nation flung itself back upon the land with as fatal an impulse as when a river whose current is suddenly impeded rolls back and drowns the valley it once fertilised. For a long time, however, the limits of their own island proved sufficient for the three or four millions which then inhabited it. The cheapness of provisions used to be the bugbear of the English manufacturer. But each successive century found the nation more straitened within its borders. At last a choice had to be made between the sacrifice of domestic happiness or of physical comfort; the natural liveliness of their affections, combined with a buoyant temperament, led the people to accept the latter alternative. The mildness of the climate, the cheapness of fuel, and, above all, the suitability of the potato to what is technically termed 'la petite culture,' contributed to turn the scale, and early marriages continued to remain a characteristic of the Irish peasantry." One manufacture alone in Ireland was left free and unaffected by the hostile tariffs of England—that of linen—and the prosperity of Derry, Belfast, and Limerick shows what the rest of Ireland might have been but for the commercial restrictions which impeded her progress. It is his Lordship's profound conviction that "had Ireland only been allowed to develop the other innumerable resources at her command, as she has developed the single industry in which she was permitted to embark, the equilibrium between the land and the population dependent upon the land would never have been disturbed, nor would the relations between landlord and tenant have become a subject of anxiety." "If," he says, in conclusion, "an alteration is to be made in the tenure of land in Ireland, that alteration must be founded on abstract principles of justice and the requirements of present policy. Many eminent statesmen view with regret the relative position of the Catholic and Protestant clergy of Ireland. But whenever the time arrives for effecting an improvement the change will be made, not because a century ago Irish bishops were sometimes lax and individual clergymen occasionally inefficient, but because it is required by justice and recommended by expediency. By a parity of reasoning it is evident that it would be as great an outrage now to visit with penal legislation the purchaser of a property in the Encumbered Estates Court because fifty years ago the grandfather of the former proprietor created 40s. freeholders (a tenure of which Mr. Butt, I observe, speaks almost with approval) and took the best rent, as it would be to load Mr. Bright with the responsibility of Ireland's misfortunes because the particular manufacture in which he is interested owes more than any other its present prosperity to the cruel policy towards Ireland his predecessors inaugurated."

FALSE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—During the past year 126 Islington tradesmen have been fined by the local justices for having on their premises false weights, scales, and measures. Publicans head the list with 42; marine-store dealers, 14; greengrocers, 13; beer-shop-keepers, 12; butchers, 11; grocers, 7; general dealers, 6; oilmen, 5; cheesemongers, 4; coal-dealers, 2; confectioners, 2; bakers, 2; milkmen, 1; ham and beef dealer, 1; flockdealer, 1; fishmonger, 1; costermonger, 1; tripedaler, 1. This number is exclusive of those fined at the Middlesex Quarterly Sessions.

SINGULAR ROBBERY.—A married woman, named Margaret Mayo, aged twenty-eight, was charged, at the Leicester Borough Sessions, with stealing £178, the property of Halford Horatio Heigh, who had lodged at her husband's house. The prosecutor kept his money locked up in a box, which was placed under his bed. In the same box, at the time of the robbery, there were £150 in notes and £20 in silver. On the 9th of July last Heigh had gone out of the house early in the evening, taking care to lock his bed-room door before leaving. On his return, he found that his room had been broken into, and that £178 in gold had been taken from the box. It was afterwards discovered that the prisoner had taken the money from Leicester to Nottingham tied up in a handkerchief. She called upon her brother-in-law there and told him that she had got her lodger's money, and asked him to take it. He refused at first, but afterwards took it and buried it in his garden. He subsequently gave it to a policeman who had gone to Nottingham in search of it. Prisoner had been committed for trial on the charge; but, the prosecutor being in America at the time of the sessions, the case was adjourned to the sessions holden yesterday. The prisoner was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

THE HOLLY.—The old English name of the holly was "holm," or "holm oak," and in many parts of England it is still known by these names; and Holmsdale, in Surrey, and other villages whose names commence with Holm, have been derived from the abundance of hollies which once grew in their vicinities. It has been thought that the "greenwood tree," familiarised in the story of Robin Hood and other old English ballads of forest life, was identical with the holly. It grew in great abundance at Sherwood and other places in the central and northern counties. Certainly no plant is better suited than the holly to the purposes for which it is so much in request. In evergreen decoration a sprig of holly can always be made available, while an equal-sized spray of any other evergreen would probably be difficult to arrange with taste; but the time is rapidly passing away in which the indiscriminate heaping of boughs and branches in all sorts of conceivable, as well as inconceivable, places was the order of the day; and if the present system of church decoration is not strictly in accordance with the laws of nature, it has the charm of being in keeping with the architecture of the building. Though the stripping of the leaves one by one from their stems, and etching them in regular order upon bands of tape, may be an act repulsive to the refined taste of a stickler for natural forms, it is, nevertheless, nice work for young ladies; and, after all, if these bands are properly arranged in their proper places, they are very effective; the leaves, however, should always be pointing upwards. Almost any amount of holly can be used in the decoration of a church, but it should not be so used to the exclusion of other evergreens, such as ivy, laurel, and bay.—Once a Week.

THE REVENUE.

	Quarter end. Dec. 31, 1866.	Quarter end. Dec. 31, 1866.	Year end. Dec. 31, 1866.	Year end. Dec. 31, 1866.	Year ended Dec. 31, 1866.
	Revenue.	Revenue.	Revenue.	Revenue.	Increase. Decrease.
Customs ...	5,670,000	5,964,000	21,707,000	21,915,000	208,000 —
Excise ...	5,110,000	5,471,000	19,649,000	20,616,000	967,000 —
Stamps ...	2,373,000	2,308,000	9,636,000	9,291,000	— 345,000
Taxes ...	1,317,000	1,358,000	3,364,000	3,463,000	99,000 —
Property Tax ...	1,451,000	1,314,000	7,603,000	5,458,000	— 2,145,000
Post Office ...	1,130,000	1,140,000	4,250,000	4,375,000	125,000 —
Crown Lands ...	90,000	95,000	314,000	327,000	13,000 —
Miscellaneous ...	686,415	682,935	2,673,478	3,340,662	667,184 —
Total ...	18,007,415	18,332,935	69,196,478	68,785,662	2,079,184 2,490,000
				Net Decrease ...	410,816

MINING STATISTICS OF GREAT BRITAIN, 1856-65.

A REPORT issued by the Select Committee appointed last Session to inquire into the operation of the Acts for the regulation and inspection of mines, and into the complaints contained in the petitions from miners of Great Britain, states that a great number of witnesses have been examined, but that on certain points it may, perhaps, be desirable to hear further evidence. It was therefore recommended that the Committee should be re-appointed next Session. According to a return prepared by the Government Inspector of South Durham, it appears that the deaths from explosions of fire-damp in Great Britain in the ten years, 1856 to 1865, were 2019. Out of this number 412 occurred in South Wales, 340 in Yorkshire, 238 in North and East Lancashire, and 126 in South Staffordshire and Worcestershire. The total number of explosions from fire-damp in Great Britain was 235 in 1856, and 377, 215, 95, 363, 119, 190, 163, 94, and 168 on the nine succeeding years. The deaths from falls in Great Britain in the same period (1856-1865) amounted to 3953, 745 of which occurred in South Staffordshire and Worcestershire, 530 in South Wales, 358 in West Lancashire and North Wales, and 238 in Yorkshire. In the ten years the number of deaths from accidents in shafts was 1710, and from miscellaneous causes on the surface of the earth and in mines, 2324. The total number of deaths from all violent causes in the ten years was 9916. Out of this number 1357 occurred in South Wales, 1302 in South Staffordshire and Worcestershire; 1141 in Northumberland, Cumberland, and North Durham; 970 in West Lancashire and North Wales, and 787 in Yorkshire. In 1856, 1022 deaths occurred from all violent causes in Great Britain, and 1122, 931, 905, 1189, 936, 1133, 907, 867, and 984 successively in the nine following years. Of the 9916 deaths, 2019, or 20 per cent, were from fire-damp explosions; 3953, or 40 per cent, were from falls of roof and coal; 1710, or 17 per cent, were shaft accidents; and 2324, or 23 per cent, were miscellaneous accidents in mines and above ground. In the last two years (1864 and 1865) the returns for Great Britain show a reduction of 991 deaths in proportion to the increased quantity of coal raised, or nearly 35 per cent as compared with the fatality of the two years 1856 and 1857. In the five years 1856 to 1860 there were 5089 deaths from colliery accidents in Great Britain, and during the same period 351,667,047 tons of coal were raised. In the succeeding five years, 1861 to 1865, 468,548,905 tons of coal were raised; so that, if the deaths had increased in the same proportion as the quantity of coal raised, the deaths in the latter quinquennium would have been 6257, whereas they only amounted to 4827, being 1430 less than in the former quinquennium. This shows a reduction of fatalities to the extent of 23 per cent in five years, being at the rate of 4.6 per cent per annum in relation to the coal raised. In the three years succeeding the passing of the Duplicate Shaft Act (1862) the deaths in Great Britain were 690 less in proportion to the quantity of coal raised than they were in the three years immediately preceding the passing of the Act. In 1856 the number of tons of coal raised in Great Britain was 71,787,552; in 1865 it was 98,911,169. Taking the several groups of inspection districts into which the coal-fields of the country are subdivided, the return shows the following results for 1865:—To one death the number of miners employed was 182 in South Wales; 238 in West Lancashire and North Wales; 258 in Northumberland, Cumberland, and North Durham; 296 in South Staffordshire and Worcestershire; 325 in Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, and Devonshire; 330 in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, and Warwickshire; 340 in the western districts of Scotland; 356 in North and East Lancashire; 403 in North Staffordshire, Shropshire, and Cheshire; 414 in South Durham; 450 in the eastern districts of Scotland; and 636 in Yorkshire.

THE TICHBORNE BARONETAGE.

THE Tichborne family is one of the most ancient among the landed gentry of Hants, with which county it is identified even by its name, for the appellation is, in its modern form, a corruption of De Tichenborne, which was derived from the trout-stream that meanders past Winchester to Southampton Water. The family was notable in Hampshire before the Conquest, and for many centuries has inherited the same land. Similar possessions in other parts of the county have been added to the original estates from time to time, but these changes took place so long ago that the latest of them is old in history. From the time of Henry II. till 1620 the principal representatives of the family were simple knights. But when Queen Elizabeth died Sir John de Tichborne, Knight, who was at the time Sheriff of Southampton, acting on his own responsibility, went directly to Winchester, and there proclaimed James VI. of Scotland her successor, as King James I. of England. After the Monarch had been settled on his throne, one of his first acts was to reward his champion in Hampshire, and Sir John de Tichborne was created a Baronet, and his four sons were knighted. He was made custodian of the castle of Winchester, which was settled upon him in fee farm. This baronetcy has come down to his descendants in the present day; and Sir Alfred Joseph Doughty Tichborne, Bart., who died a short time since, was the last bearer of the hereditary dignity. Concerning the death of this gentleman, and his right to the title he bore, a most extraordinary and romantic statement has been made, which appears to accord with facts so conclusively that it is probably, so far as we at present understand it, true. If it prove to be so, never since the old family has been identified with this southern county has so strange an incident been known in its history. The official books record that Sir James Francis Doughty Tichborne, Bart., of Tichborne, Hants, born in 1784, succeeded his brother as tenth Baronet in 1853. He had at this time two sons—viz., Roger Charles, born 1829, "lost at sea off the coast of South America, in the spring of 1854," and Alfred Joseph, born Sept. 4, 1839, who married, in 1861, Teresa Mary eldest daughter of Lord Arundell. There were of this family also two daughters, who died. Thus the eldest son and heir, Roger Charles, was, when his father became Baronet in 1853, twenty-four years of age, and his younger brother, Alfred Joseph, was fourteen years old. In 1862 the father died, but in the mean time the heir had gone away (in 1854), and was reported "lost at sea." So the second or last surviving son took the title and estates. However, he had no son to succeed him, and when he died a few months ago it was thought by many that the title would be extinguished in that branch. But his lady bore a posthumous child, and great rejoicing was made when this infant was formally declared heir of the line. It is at this point that it becomes necessary to mention the most extraordinary facts of this story. In the summer of last year some of the Australian newspapers asserted that a man, who had been for years living at a place called Wagga-Wagga under the name of Thomas De Castro, and keeping "a butchering establishment" there, had avowed himself to be really Roger Charles Tichborne, who had been supposed by all his family and friends to be "lost at sea off the coast of South America in the spring of 1854," as the peerages recorded. This gentleman had married in his Australian home the daughter of a labouring man, a plasterer, who lost his life by falling from a ladder against a half-finished house. It was said that Roger Charles Tichborne had become aware when he first reached Australia, after some years of wandering in America, that his younger brother, to whom he was much attached, had, on the supposition of his death, succeeded to the title and estates which he himself might have claimed, and that he determined not to disturb his brother in the inheritance. He lived and worked under the name of Thomas De Castro in complete obscurity; but when he heard from England that Sir Alfred Joseph Tichborne, Bart., had died, he made known his proper name, and declared his intention of proceeding to England. Intelligence has been received in London to the effect that the Australian settler had arrived at Tichborne Park, near Arlesford, Hants; and had declared himself to be its master, as Sir Roger Charles Tichborne, Bart.; and that directly he arrived he was recognised and acknowledged by his tenantry and those of the neighbourhood who knew him well.

SCOTTISH HOSPITAL.—At a quarterly general court of this corporation, held on Wednesday, at the Scottish Hall, Crane-court—Dr. Ramsay in the chair—a letter was read from Dr. Cumming again declining to serve as chaplain, to which office he was reappointed last St. Andrew's Day, notwithstanding his written refusal to serve. The members of the court regretted Dr. Cumming's decision, and passed a resolution acknowledging the good service he had rendered the charity during the twenty-one years he acted as chaplain, and electing him to the extra privilege of a governor of fifty guineas. Resolutions were also passed regretting the death of Mr. Kirk, who for the last forty-two years had been a governor of the charity, and sympathising with his family in their affliction; and thanking Lieutenant-Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, M.P., for his great kindness in undertaking the duties of chairman at the late anniversary festival and for the admirable and successful manner in which he advocated the claims of the hospital. The secretary (Mr. Macrae Moir) announced a further donation of £100 from Mr. R. Hannay, of Springfield, Ulverston. The same gentleman gave £50 last year to the funds of the charity, and £100 the year before.

EXTRAORDINARY LAW-SUIT.

A VERY extraordinary family law-suit, concerning the custody of two young ladies, aged respectively twenty and seventeen, occupied one of the Paris courts last week. The plaintiff, M. Baisson, a gentleman of property, living in the Rue St. Honoré, is the father of the minors in question by a first wife, who died many years ago. M. Baisson has several children by a second marriage. Immediately after the death of his first wife he placed his two children, then infants of tender years, under the care of his mother-in-law, the defendant, a widow. This lady became passionately attached to the girls, took the utmost care of their education, treated them in all respects as her adopted children, relieved the father of all expenses for their maintenance, and made no secret of her intention to leave them the whole of her very large fortune. Under these apparently most happy circumstances, the utmost harmony prevailed between M. Baisson and the mother of his first wife; he was able to devote himself to his new family with the knowledge that his elder children were in the hands of a tender, judicious, and wealthy relation, whose greatest object in life was their welfare. But a few months ago it happened that the eldest Mdlle. Baisson fell in love—a most improper thing for any young lady to do, according to French notions. The rule of good French society is that a girl, until married, is never to speak to any man unless in the presence of her parents or guardians, and then only in monosyllables. A well-bred French girl knows that she is one day to be married, and looks forward to the event with pleasure as one which will give her an opportunity of making many old schoolfellows jealous by the display of her trousseau. But she is supposed to have no preference on the subject. One day her father comes to her, and says, "My love, I have found you a husband!" to which she replies, kissing her father on the forehead, "Merci, mon père!—who is it?" He gives the name, mentions a proximate day for the wedding, and then the young lady consults with her mother about the wedding outfit. These well-known rules were not regarded in the case of Mdlle. Baisson's attachment. Yes!—she absolutely formed an attachment, and her rich grandmother, who had brought her up and was prepared to do everything requisite, humanly speaking, to make her future life happy, was privy to it. The object of her attachment is an army surgeon, a man of merit, both personally and through his foregoers. His father was a distinguished general officer, and he himself wears upon his breast a constellation of medals and decorations attesting his good services. But his only fortune is his commission, and on this sole ground M. Baisson, when informed of the engagement by his mother-in-law, peremptorily declared that the army surgeon was no fit match for his daughter. The father, who had been content to delegate to her grandmother the entire care of his daughter from her earliest infancy, came forward resolutely to exercise the stern parental authority which the law gives him in order to prevent the marriage of a girl almost of age with the man of her choice, and who had courted her with the approbation of the relation who stood *in loco parentis*, and had been throughout her life her best friend. M. Baisson went to his mother-in-law's house, saw his daughter, told her that he would never give his consent to the marriage; and, moreover, that he would no longer allow her to live with her grandmother, and that she must come away with him directly. The young lady, in obedience to his parental command, packed up her trunks and got into her father's carriage, which was in waiting. But the carriage had only gone a few yards when she suddenly opened a door, at the risk of breaking her neck, jumped out into the street, and ran back to her grandmother's. M. Baisson thought it undesirable to make a scene by attempting then and there to bring his daughter away by force. He contented himself by saying that he was inflexible, and she would hear from him in a few days. When next he went to the house he was informed that the whole family had gone away and had left no address. M. Baisson went over almost all Europe in search of his daughters. He inquired at all the German watering places and at every town in Belgium, but without any result. At length he hit upon the expedient of sending a money-letter to the grandmother at her old address in Paris, and he learned through the post-office that this letter was delivered to the very army surgeon whose pretensions to his eldest daughter's hand formed the *casus belli*. He afterwards found that the two girls were concealed under false names in a Catholic convent in Glasgow. Thereupon he brought an action against his mother-in-law, requiring her to bring the girls back to France and hand them over to his custody. The tribunal of first instance made a decree in his favour, and ordered the young ladies' grandmother to pay 1000*fr.* a day for two months unless the girls were restored to their father. She, thinking that the penalty of this decree would be the worst of the matter, let the two months expire and actually paid the large sum of 60,000*fr.* into court—a sum that she was prepared to sacrifice rather than surrender the girls to their obdurate father. But then he brought a further action, laying damages at a million francs. M. Desmarest, the lady's counsel, told her that the law was altogether on the father's side, and that if she did not give the children up he might go on bringing actions until he utterly ruined her. Acting upon M. Desmarest's advice, the grandmother has now brought the young ladies back from Glasgow. The father has gained his point: they are now in his custody. The only question ultimately before the Court was, what damages she should pay to the father for interfering with his authority. The sum, after his counsel, M. Jules Favre, had been heard, was fixed at 5000*fr.*, and the balance of the 60,000*fr.* interest is to be refunded to the lady. As matters now stand, Mdlle. Baisson cannot marry in France till twenty-five, without her father's consent, but in a few months she will be twenty-one, and then he will have no legal right to prevent her living where she pleases.

A SALT LAKE TRAGEDY.—More than two years ago Dr. J. King Robinson was ordered to Salt Lake city as surgeon of the (United States) troops stationed there to watch the Mormons and look after Price's rebel soldiers. Active, clever, persevering, self-reliant, he quickly got into extensive practice outside the army, both among Gentiles and Mormons. Brigham Young teaches the laying on of hands for the healing of the sick, but he found that his people had more faith in the doctor. When the troops were disbanded the young surgeon with his young wife determined to remain. His fame had spread throughout Utah, and he was a general favourite. But he never failed to denounce Mormonism and to avow his utter contempt for its leaders. He took charge of a Sunday school, to which, notwithstanding all threats, Mormon children would go, and would take home the tracts he gave them. He acquired some land, Indian land containing warm (sulphur) springs, outside the mud wall north of Salt Lake, and was about to build; he had the land recorded in the Land Office at Washington, as "the town of warm springs." These things could not be tolerated. The result was lately telegraphed. At midnight he was summoned "to attend a sick man;" his wife wished him not to go, but he did not like to refuse. Within 200 feet of his door the man who came for him assassinated him.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES FOR SICK CHILDREN.—On Saturday last the wards of the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond-street were the scene of a gratifying Christmas reunion of about one hundred children. Fifty of the patients recently discharged well were invited to take tea with their less fortunate companions still under treatment in the hospital, about fifty of whom were sufficiently well to assist in the glories of a Christmas-tree and partake of the pleasure of a marionette-figure entertainment provided for them gratuitously by the kindness of Mr. Cremer, jun., of Regent-street. The sight was one not to be easily forgotten by those who witnessed it. Children of all sizes, between two years and ten years of age, were placed on couches arranged in a semicircle; while those in a more advanced stage of recovery were arranged with their juvenile friends, the "visitors," to form a sort of fringe around the cots and couches of those patients who were compelled from recent operations or weakness to recline. All the children partook of a substantial tea together, and, by the generosity of friends far and near, an ample supply of Christmas presents having been provided, every child received several articles suitable to its age and sex. During the evening the children joined in singing several pieces and Christmas carols, and at the close all joined with much spirit in singing "God Save the Queen." Her Majesty and their Royal Highnesses the Princesses have on several occasions graciously condescended to evince much consideration and sympathy for these humble sufferers. The "visitors" took leave of their ward friends at about seven o'clock. The hospital receives seventy-five in-patients, many from distant parts of the country; and more than 200 children are brought every morning for advice and medicine as out-patients. We are informed that the committee of management hope shortly to effect a considerable enlargement of the wards by adding other premises to the institution.

LAW AND CRIME.

It appears almost incredible that, after the frequent, almost continuous, exposures in the journals of the swindling tricks practised at mock auctions, dupes are still to be found—not among the lower classes, but among those possessed of means sufficient to render them highly-profitable victims. The press has surely done in this matter all that lay in its power in the way of exposing the fraud. Yet the nefarious traffic appears to be on the increase. In fact, it has already assumed the dimensions of a distinct branch of British trade. It has its special manufacturers, who turn out goods made expressly for the purposes of fraud, but who, nevertheless, are beyond the law, since they sell their wares at first hand, not as what they are intended to resemble, but as what they really are. It employs auctioneers (duly provided with the Government license at a cost of £10 annually), pugilistic bullies, low brokers, as puffers and sham buyers; and touts, to invite unwary passengers to the auction-room, which the gang never find any difficulty in securing in a leading thoroughfare. The conspirators are peripatetic, and visit fashionable watering-places during the dull season in town. The story of the victim is always nearly the same. He has strayed into the auction-room from curiosity or been beguiled by the placards and the tout at the door. Surrounded by the gang of confederates, he is partly cajoled, partly bullied, into the purchase of some showy, worthless article. This was the case last week with Mr. Charles Baron, of Wymondley, Herts, who, being a gentleman of property, and a churchwarden and overseer to boot, might reasonably have been expected to possess sufficient prudence and knowledge of the world to preserve him from being victimised by such a notorious device. Mr. Baron, however, having entered a mock-auction room on Ludgate-hill, speedily found himself the purchaser, at the price of £7, of a "duffing" coffee service, which the auctioneer warranted "the best electro-plate lined with gold," and of which he represented the cost price to have been originally twenty guineas. Mr. Baron applied to the Police Court at Guildhall, on discovering the real quality of the goods, and the result was the appearance of Theodore Levine, the auctioneer, with Charles Wood, a broker, who had acted as a confederate in the transaction, to answer a charge of fraud and conspiracy. A remarkable feature of the case was the appearance, on behalf of the prosecution, of a servant who appeared to have entered Levine's employ for the purpose of ultimately exposing his practices. Mr. Sleight, for Levine, urged that with regard to the false pretences the charge could not be sustained; and also suggested, on behalf of his client against the charge of conspiracy, that Wood was acting as servant of Levine, and therefore bound to obey his instructions, "and so there was an end of the conspiracy." Mr. Alderman Carden did not take this view of the legal aspect of the case, but committed both prisoners for trial and refused to take bail, which was offered "to any amount." It does not, however, appear to have occurred to the worthy Alderman that the City authorities are far from blameless in this matter. Here is an establishment, well known to be opened for the express purpose of fraud and conspiracy, and for no other, suffered to remain day after day to entrap dupes in one of the chief civic thoroughfares. A single policeman, put on duty in the mock-auction room, would have sufficed to shut up the whole concern in a few hours. Some years ago, when a similar nuisance was set up in the Quadrant, Regent-street, the local authorities had the immediate vicinity placarded with notices warning the public to beware of mock auctions, and hired men to promenade in front of the sale-room with similar advertisements. But the mock-auction swindle is, after all, only one of a group demanding active legislative interference. The whole basis of the matter, as of the sham "ample security" swindles, and of innumerable kindred frauds, is founded on the non-prohibition of the manufacture of spurious goods, known as "duffers," and commanding a market exclusively of swindlers and their abettors. It would surely be no unconstitutional interference with commercial liberty to render penal the manufacture and sale of goods not merely got up to resemble something better than they are, but to look like that which they are not. It would be a salutary statute which should at once remove from the list of lawful British produce counterfeit electro-plate, "duffing" watches, "flash" notes, and "Hanover" sovereigns.

THE CLERKENWELL CASUAL WARDS.

MR. CORBETT, one of the Poor-Law Commissioners for the metropolitan district, held an inquiry at the Clerkenwell Workhouse on Wednesday, respecting the alleged refusal of the officials to admit persons to the wards certified under the Houseless Poor Act. The complaints appeared in the *Times* of the 24th and 31st ult., and the first had been communicated to the Poor-Law Board. This was that two wayfarers, under circumstances of great hardship, had been refused admission to the wards, and the second was that an applicant had been expelled with violence from the place when asking for admission. Mr. Boulton represented the guardians, of whom many were present, and Mr. Inspector Potter, of the G. Division, represented the Police Commissioners. William Taylor, the porter to the casual ward, was called to speak to the first case. He said, in the course of a very long examination, that a little before one o'clock on the morning of the 23rd ult. he refused admission to two casuals, who had the appearance of being excavators or labourers, because they were intoxicated. He had only refused them a few minutes and gone into the house when he heard a very loud knocking. He returned to the door and saw a third person there, who demanded the reason why the men were refused admission; and he told this third person that he was drunk, ordered him to get out of the forecourt, and threatened to give him into custody for knocking at the door. The third person subsequently took the casuals away. In cross-examination by the gentleman, whose name was Mr. While, the witness said he was a policeman before he became porter here. He was tried and convicted for an assault, and was discharged from the force, in which he had been for eleven years without any other complaint having been made against him. Police-constable 108 G. deposed to having his attention attracted to the wards by hearing a very loud knocking at the doors, and he then saw down in the forecourt a gentleman and two casuals. The gentleman was somewhat excited at having been told that he was drunk by the porter at the wards; but witness, who turned his light full on the person, was convinced from all he saw that the gentleman was perfectly sober. He thought, however, that the men had had some drink. He thought so from their general appearance; but he did not see much of them. He heard the porter refuse to admit the men, and without assigning any reason, and he saw him advance upon the gentleman and order him to leave the forecourt, and the gentleman did so, saying he was not going to give the porter an excuse for

committing a breach of the peace. Mr. While, the gentleman who had made complaint to the Poor-Law Board, then detailed the circumstances witnessed by him. He saw the two men, who seemed thoroughly tired out, and, to his mind, perfectly sober, crouching in the shelter of the casual wards door. He waited for a time to see if anyone came; and the men, in answer to his question, telling him that the porter had refused them admission, he knocked at the door. No answer came, and he knocked again louder, and no one coming, he knocked still more loud. The porter then came, told him he was drunk, refused to give any reason for not admitting the men, threateningly ordered him out of the forecourt, and then threatened to give him into custody for knocking at the door. Witness called the attention of the constable and Mr. Northfield, a neighbour, to the affair. The last-named gentleman also deposed that Mr. While and the two casuals were perfectly sober. Inspector Potter, in answer to Mr. Corbett, said that there were repeated complaints at the district police stations with respect to the manner in which these wards were managed; and he handed in a statement of some of the complaints, which were not made public. Mr. Corbett stated that the evidence would be reported to the Poor-Law Board, who would give their decision in the case. A conversation arose between the guardians, and it transpired that orders had been given that no one was to be admitted to the wards unless introduced by a guardian. Mr. Corbett, in conclusion, told the guardians they ought to be obliged to Mr. While for bringing the matter out, and he recommended them, without waiting for the Poor-Law Board's report, to adopt a system by which the refusals to admit applicants for any cause should be checked.

SINGULAR CHARGE AGAINST A FARMER.—At Leeds, on Tuesday, a farm servant named John Dalby summoned his master, William Appleyard, a farmer, of East Keswick, for refusing to supply him with sufficient necessary wholesome provision. From the statement of the complainant, who is a young man about eighteen years of age, and his father, it appeared that Dalby, on the 23rd of November, engaged as farm servant to the defendant at the wages of £14 10s. per year and washing. In return the complainant was to take charge of four horses and assist in the ploughing. When the youth got to the place he found that, in addition to the stipulated work, he had to look after ten cows. He was put to sleep in a bed supplied with sheets made from guano bags in an apartment stored with corn, and was compelled to eat large hard cakes from an inch to an inch and a half thick, which, after having been baked were hung up on a cord near the fireplace. The only inmates of the house were the defendant and his father and mother, an old couple upwards of eighty years of age, the latter being stone-blind, and there was no domestic to prepare the meals. The whole of the house was in a very filthy condition, the walls were black bright, while the complainant had not had his stockings washed the whole of the time, and only one shirt. Defendant called several witnesses to prove that the cake was good wholesome food, the bed a feather one, that Dalby generally got his meals with his master, and that the house was clean. He, however, adopted a suggestion made by the Bench, and consented to release complainant from his engagements and pay the costs.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE value of Consols has fluctuated this week, owing to numerous realisations. Consols, for Money, have been done at 90½; Ditto, for Account, 90½; Reduced and New Three per Cent, 89½; Exchange Bills, 74 to 75; India Five per Cent, 100½; Indian Securities have ruled steady in price. India Five per Cent, 107½; Rupee Paper, 100 to 101, and 105 to 106; India Bonds, 20s. to 25s. prem.

The demand for money has been somewhat active. In the open market the best bills are done as follows:—

	Per cent.
Thirty to sixty days' bills	3½
Three months'	3½
Four months'	4 to 4½

The imports of the precious metals have been rather extensive. The demand for export being limited, most of the gold at hand has been put into the Bank of England. Mexican dollars have sold at 59½d. per ounce.

The Council for India have sold £350,000 in bills on the East. In the market for Foreign Securities there has been no activity. Spanish and Italian Securities are firm in price; and most other descriptions support previous rates:—Brazilian Five per Cent, 1855, have been done at 71; Chilean Six per Cent, A. 130½; Ditto, B. 95; Egyptian Seven per Cent, 1864, 2½; Ditto, Debentures, 90; Greek Five per Cent, 14½; Ditto, Coupure, 5½; Mexican Three per Cent, 18; Peruvian Five per Cent, 1865, 68½; Russian Five per Cent, 1862, 85½; Ditto, 18 64, 87½; Sarcelian Five per Cent, 71; Spanish, Pasivo, 2½; Ditto, 1864, 2½; Ditto, 1865, 2½; Ditto, 1866, 2½; Ditto, 1867, 2½; Ditto, 1868, 2½; Ditto, 1869, 2½; Ditto, 1870, 2½; Ditto, 1871, 2½; Ditto, 1872, 2½; Ditto, 1873, 2½; Ditto, 1874, 2½; Ditto, 1875, 2½; Ditto, 1876, 2½; Ditto, 1877, 2½; Ditto, 1878, 2½; Ditto, 1879, 2½; Ditto, 1880, 2½; Ditto, 1881, 2½; Ditto, 1882, 2½; Ditto, 1883, 2½; Ditto, 1884, 2½; Ditto, 1885, 2½; Ditto, 1886, 2½; Ditto, 1887, 2½; Ditto, 1888, 2½; Ditto, 1889, 2½; Ditto, 1890, 2½; Ditto, 1891, 2½; Ditto, 1892, 2½; Ditto, 1893, 2½; Ditto, 1894, 2½; Ditto, 1895, 2½; 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Ditto, 2486, 2½; Ditto, 2487, 2½; Ditto, 2488, 2½; Ditto, 2489, 2½; Ditto, 2490, 2½; Ditto, 2491, 2½; Ditto, 2492, 2½; Ditto, 2493, 2½; Ditto, 2494, 2½; Ditto, 2495, 2½; Ditto, 2496, 2½; Ditto, 2497, 2½; Ditto, 2498, 2½; Ditto, 2499, 2½; Ditto, 2500, 2½; Ditto, 2501, 2½; Ditto, 2502, 2½; Ditto, 2503, 2½; Ditto, 2504, 2½; Ditto, 2505, 2½; Ditto, 2506, 2½; Ditto, 2507, 2½; Ditto, 2508, 2½; Ditto, 2509, 2½; Ditto, 2510, 2½; Ditto, 2511, 2½; Ditto, 2512, 2½; Ditto, 2513, 2½; Ditto, 2514, 2½; Ditto, 2515, 2½; Ditto, 2516, 2½; Ditto, 2517, 2½; Ditto, 2518, 2½; Ditto, 2519, 2½; Ditto, 2520, 2½; Ditto, 2521, 2½; Ditto, 2522, 2½; Ditto, 2523, 2½; Ditto, 2524, 2½; Ditto, 2525, 2½; Ditto, 2526, 2½; Ditto, 2527, 2½; Ditto, 2528, 2½; Ditto, 2529, 2½; Ditto, 2530, 2½; Ditto, 2531, 2½; Ditto, 2532, 2½; Ditto, 2533, 2½; Ditto, 2534, 2½; Ditto, 2535, 2½; Ditto, 2536, 2½; Ditto, 2537, 2½; Ditto, 2538, 2½; Ditto, 2539, 2½; Ditto, 2540, 2½; Ditto, 2541, 2½; Ditto, 2542, 2½; Ditto, 2543, 2½; Ditto, 2544, 2½; Ditto, 2545, 2½; Ditto, 2546, 2½; Ditto, 2547, 2½; Ditto, 2548, 2½; Ditto, 2549, 2½; Ditto, 2550, 2½; Ditto, 2551, 2½; Ditto, 2552, 2½; Ditto, 2553, 2½; Ditto, 2554, 2½; Ditto, 2555, 2½; Ditto, 2556, 2½; Ditto, 2557, 2½; Ditto, 2558, 2½; Ditto, 2559, 2½; Ditto, 2560, 2½; Ditto, 2561, 2½;

the Parish of St. Mary-le-Strand, in the County of Middlesex, by
THOMAS FOX, 1, Catherine-street, Strand, aforesaid.—SATURDAY